Los Angeles Times

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COLUMN ONE

If it can bloom, this year it has

Steady rain and mild temps supercharged native plants and invasives alike.

By Corinne Purtill

There is always something growing inside the gated courtyard of the L.A. Catholic Worker Hospitality Kitchen, the Skid Row food distribution center better known as the "Hippie Kitchen."

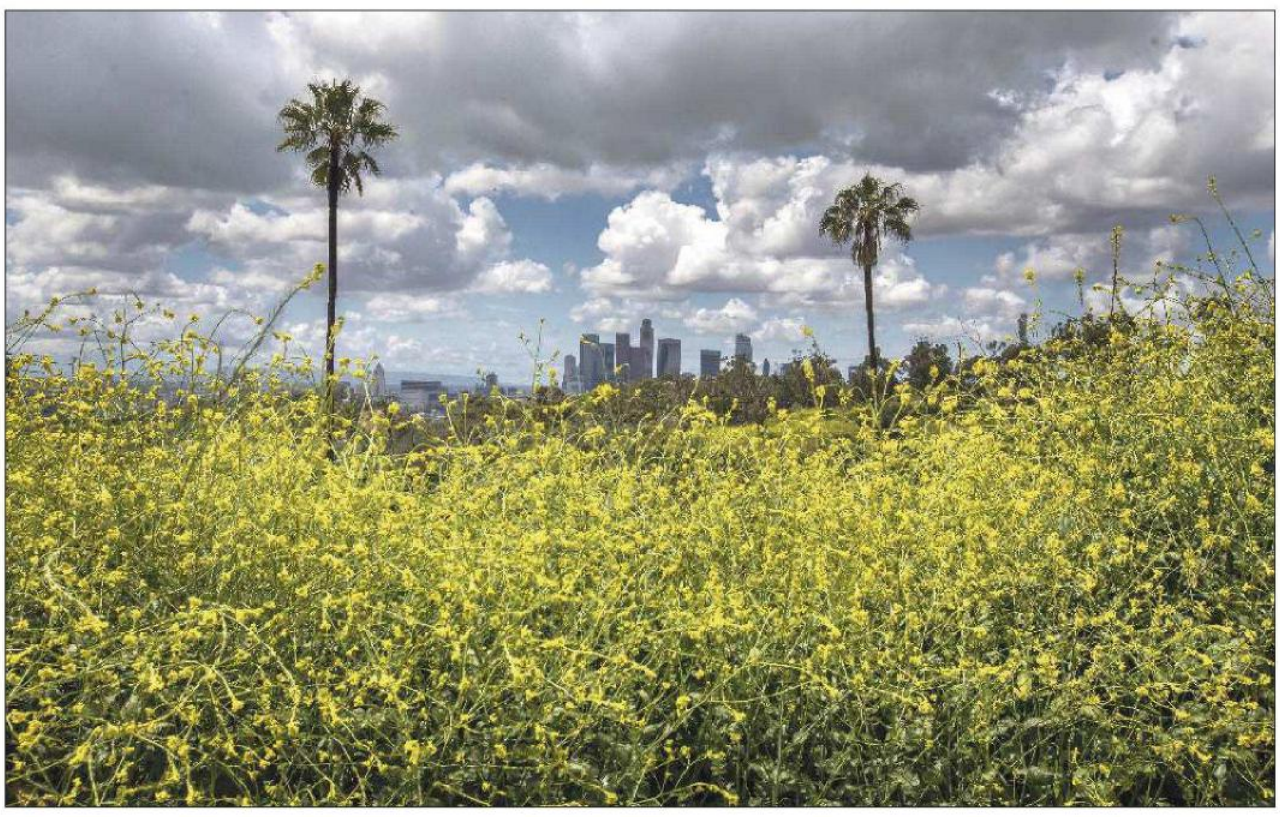
But this spring has supercharged the courtyard's trees and lush greenery, which offer shade and sanctuary to the hundreds of neighborhood residents who come for the kitchen's thrice-weekly meals.

"This plant here — I've never seen so many flowers on it," marveled organizer Matt Harper, pointing to the berry-like blooms on a natal lily.

Magenta explosions of bougainvillea frothed over the kitchen's gates and the cinder-block walls of the vacant lot next door. The Indian coral tree's fire-colored blossoms popped against green leaves. There was even a calla lily blooming from a patch of dirt everyone at the kitchen thought had gone barren.

"We used to have all sorts of lovely flowers here, and then they all died off," Harper said, looking down at the unexpected blossom. "But with all these rains you

[See **Blooms,** A12]



Photographs by Francine Orr Los Angeles Times

RAIN FROM 31 atmospheric rivers helped deliver the blooms of black mustard, clockwise from top, the bee-luring Pride of Madeira, the redvein abutilon, or Chinese lantern, and orchid trees seen across the L.A. area.

Trump found liable for sexual abuse

Jury awards accuser $5 million for assault and defamation. Her rape claim is rejected.

By Larry Neumeister, Jennifer Peltz and Michael R. Sisak

NEW YORK — A jury found Donald Trump liable Tuesday for sexually abusing advice columnist E. Jean Carroll in 1996, awarding her $5 million in a judgment that could haunt the former president as he campaigns to regain the White House.

The verdict was split: Jurors rejected Carroll's allegation that she was raped, finding Trump responsible for a lesser degree of sexual assault. But the judgment adds to Trump's legal woes and offers vindication to Carroll, whose allegations had been mocked and dismissed by Trump for years.

She nodded as the verdict was announced in a federal courtroom in New York City just a few hours after deliberations had begun, then hugged supporters and smiled through tears. As the courtroom cleared, Carroll could be heard laughing and crying.

Jurors also found Trump liable for defaming Carroll after she made her allegations public. Trump chose not to attend the civil trial and was absent when the verdict was read.

Trump immediately lashed out with a statement on his social media site, claiming again that he does not know Carroll and referring to the verdict as "a disgrace" and "a continuation of the greatest witch hunt of

[See **Trump,** A7]

Verdict from GOP voters? Unclear

Trump's legal woes may hurt him — if rivals dare to act, Mark Z. Barabak writes. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

STATE MAY CLOSE YOUTH HALLS

An 18-year-old's death Tuesday adds to long list of troubles at the L.A. County facilities.

By James Queally

A state oversight agency issued a report Tuesday calling for Los Angeles County's juvenile halls to be shuttered in the wake of a staffing crisis and reports of increased violence and drug use, just hours after an 18-year-old was found dead of an apparent overdose in one of the deteriorating facilities.

The young man was found unresponsive in his room at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar, according to a statement issued late Tuesday morning by the L.A. County Probation Department. Staffers deployed Narcan, a nasal spray that can reverse an opioid overdose, but he could not be revived and was pronounced dead a short time later.

The victim's identity was not immediately released, and the department did not comment further on the cause of death or the type of drug that caused the overdose. The young man lived in the Secure Youth Treatment Facility, where those accused of serious and violent crimes are housed, according to sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from the Probation Department. He was convicted of attempted murder and transferred to SYTF just six weeks ago, several of the sources said.

Hours after word of the death surfaced, the California Board of State and Community Corrections issued a staff report recommending that the halls be shuttered within 60 days of its next meeting, in late May.

According to the nine-page report, the Probation

[See **Juvenile,** A6]

Writers' walkout may take a big toll

Damage may be worse than in 2007 and could ripple through the region's economy.

By Marisa Gerber and Ronald D. White

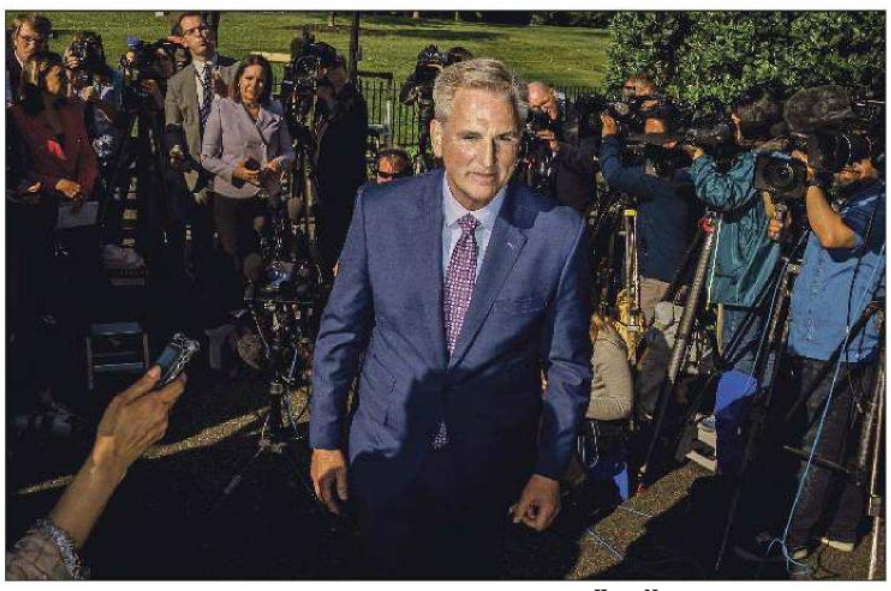
The cascading effects of the Hollywood writers' strike could touch almost every facet of the economy in Southern California, including the housing market, and lead to economic fallout that eclipses the estimated $2.1 billion in losses during the last work stoppage, experts say.

"We believe this standstill could last three months or more," analysts from Moody's Investors Service wrote in a recent report. "The consequences of a very long strike could prove bothersome and even dire."

And several factors point toward dire.

The last strike — which, like the current one, pitted Hollywood studios against thousands of film and TV members of the Writers Guild of America — began in

[See **Writers,** A9]



Kent Nishimura Los Angeles Times

SPEAKER Kevin McCarthy emerged from White House talks with no sign of resolving the standoff over the GOP threat to default on the nation's bills.

No progress in debt talks, a major test for McCarthy

Speaker stuck between Biden and far-right Republicans

By Courtney Subramanian

WASHINGTON — The last time House Speaker Kevin McCarthy sat down with President Biden in the Oval Office, he struck a firm but hopeful tone, telling reporters that the pair could "find common ground" to avert a calamitous default on U.S. debt.

Ninety-seven days later, as McCarthy met with the president Tuesday for only the second time since becoming speaker, the two sides were no closer to a compromise — paving a perilous path toward a historic default that could crash the stock market, lead to millions of job losses and send the country into a deep recession.

"Everybody in this meeting reiterated the positions they were at," McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) said after meeting with Biden and House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. "I didn't see any new movement."

House Republicans have threatened to allow the U.S. to default on its debts unless raising the spending cap is paired with discre-

[See **Debt limit,** A12]

Shift on breast cancer exams

A task force plans to recommend that mammograms start at age 40 rather than 50.

By Melissa Healy

A new look at the science of preventing breast cancer deaths promises to reshape when, and how many, mammograms American women will get — again.

An influential panel intends to recommend that U.S. women begin mammograms to screen for breast cancer at 40 and continue getting them once every two years until age 75. Doing so is expected to reduce the number of breast cancer deaths by 19% compared with following the mammography regimen it previously endorsed.

The new slate of draft recommendations from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force marks a major shift from the controversial advice it promulgated in 2009 — and largely reiterated in 2016 — that most

[See **Mammogram,** A7]

Feinstein heads back to Senate

Lawmaker returns to Washington after a long absence that has spurred calls for resignation. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Homebuilding booms in state

Despite a population exodus during the pandemic, new housing construction is rising. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Fox Corp. posts $50-million loss

Red ink follows settlement of a lawsuit by Dominion over false election fraud claims. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather
Cool, clouds clearing. L.A. Basin: 72/54. **B6**

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FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

VISIT…

In praise of gerontocracy, experience, wisdom

Don't get distracted by stereotypes. Judge politicians by their record, not their age.

MICHAEL HILTZIK

The cry is heard that America has become a "gerontocracy." That's supposed to be bad, it's argued, because our superannuated political leadership is out of touch with the electorate and blocking younger and (theoretically) more vigorous and intellectually vibrant leaders from taking their hour upon the stage.

Earlier this year, CNN called President Biden's age a "hot topic." Leaving aside that news organizations such as CNN have helped make it a hot topic, the real question is whether it's anything more than that. The answer is no.

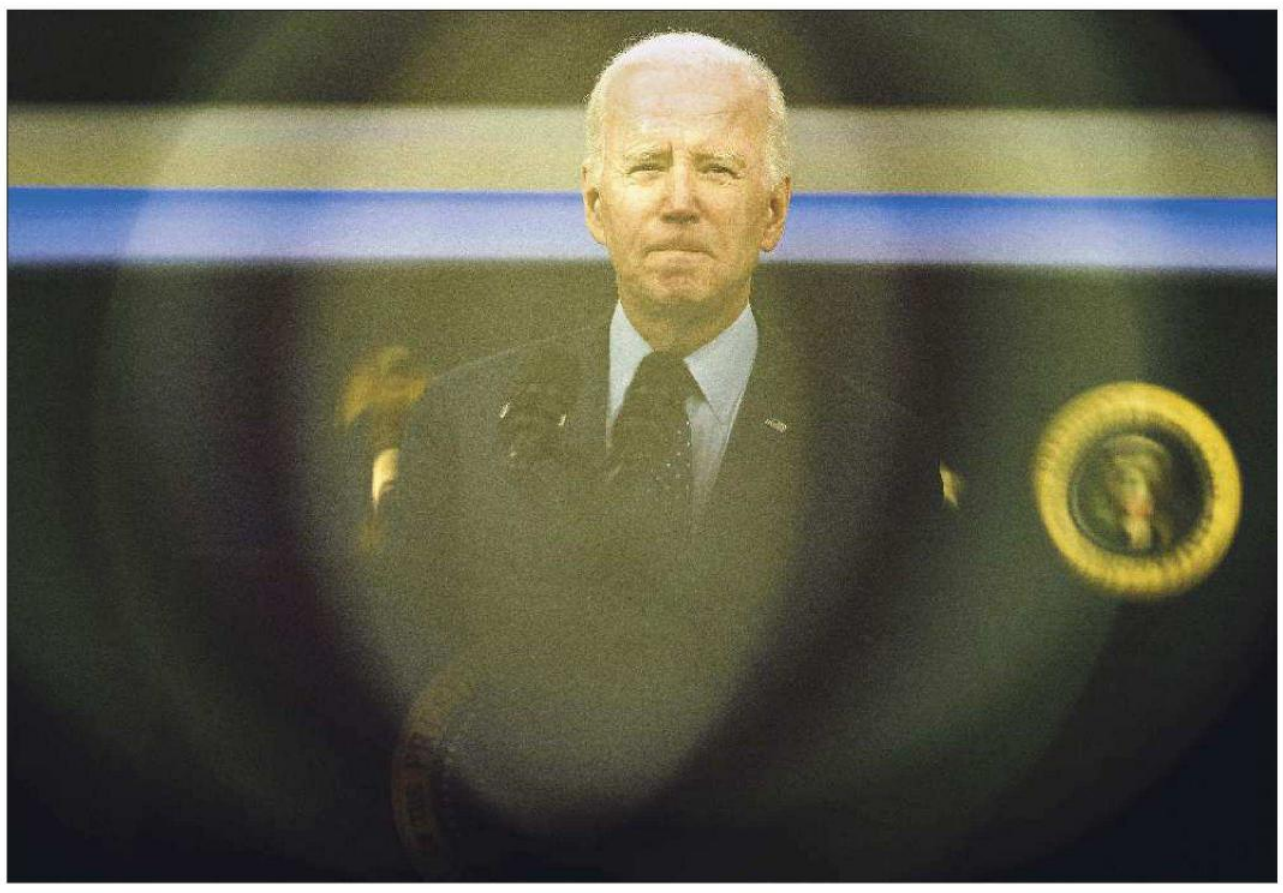
"Leaning into this language about a 'gerontocracy' is a distraction technique," says Tracey Gendron, chair of the Department of Gerontology at Virginia Commonwealth University and author of the 2022 book "Ageism Unmasked: Exploring Age Bias and How to End It."

"It's just the latest thing that's keeping us from looking at things that are more important, like race, gender, education," Gendron told me. "All these things don't accurately reflect the demographic makeup of the country. So why are we singling out age among all these things?"

The gerontocracy critique also threatens to deprive us of our most experienced leaders. Rather than remove poor performers from their sinecures, the current fixation on age could remove from our political and economic structures men and women who have spent decades learning about the world and offering the wisdom born of long professional experience.

The U.S. State Department, for example, requires its professional foreign service staff to retire at 65, "when they are at the height of their wisdom and knowledge," publishing executive and author Michael Clinton observed recently, a rule he attributed to "toxic ageism." Some corporations require their top officers to retire at 60 or 65, while most are still willing to make a professional contribution.

In her book, Gendron makes a distinction between ageism and "ableism." The first is stereotyping that can be applied to people of any age, young or old — the grousing by employers about "lazy" millennials and Gen Zs being unwilling to work is ageism just as much as intimations that the chief characteristic of seniors is senility.



KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

PRESIDENT BIDEN is 80. Some political leaders have notched their most outstanding achievement at an age decades later than when conventional wisdom holds that they should have retired, Michael Hiltzik writes.

The second stereotype is focused on the notion that as we grow older, we lose physical and mental capacity to the point where we may not be able to function in society without assistance. Putting ageism and ableism together yields the hand-wringing about gerontocracy among our political omphaloskeptics.

Claims that a political gerontocracy is somehow undermining American democracy — the theme of so much political navel-gazing — simply don't hold water. They depend on the notion that as we grow older, our political outlooks coalesce into something at odds with the public interest. Where's the evidence for that?

It's widely noted that Biden and his likeliest presidential challenger, Donald Trump, would be the oldest president if either wins election in 2024. Biden would be 82 on inauguration day 2025 and Trump nearly 80. Does that tell us anything about how their administration would unfold? Obviously not.

Biden would almost certainly run on his record of creating remarkably inclusive and progressive White House policies and overseeing an economy of job growth and economic expansion in the wake of the pandemic; Trump, judging from his most recent speeches, would continue to flog personal grievances based on his groundless claims of fraud in his 2020 loss.

As for the notion that advanced age robs us of physical capacity and mental acuity, that may be arguable as a demographic average, but ignores what Gendron observes is the increasing individuation as we age.

"Early in life, you have markers that tell you approximately at what age someone's going to start to talk or someone's going to walk," she says. "We don't have that in later life. There really isn't a guidepost to say, 'At this age, something's going to happen.' At older ages, we become more individual and less like other people."

Certainly both Biden and Trump have lost a few steps since they were in their 20s, 30s and 40s. Doesn't everybody? (Disclosure: I'm a member of the baby boom generation. If you feel the need to know more than that, my actual age is in the public record.)

Some of our political leaders have notched their most outstanding achievement at an age decades later than when conventional wisdom holds that they should have retired.

The questions raised about the physical and mental capacity of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), 89, didn't apply to former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), who compiled what might be the most successful record in House history by shepherding the Affordable Care Act through Congress in 2010 at 70 and Biden's progressive policies to enactment after the age of 80.

As for whether older politicians are out of step with the younger members of the American electorate, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) didn't seem to have much trouble connecting with youthful voters when he ran for president in the run-up to the 2016 election, at age 75.

Nor are there signs that the liberal Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) has lost the youth vote because of her age, 73. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) seemed to have little trouble getting reelected in the last election, when they were, respectively, 80 and 89.

Nor is it necessarily true that older political leaders invariably hang on to their seats as if with what Orwell called prehensile behinds. Earlier this year, the top three Democratic Party leaders in the House — Pelosi; Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland, 83; and James E. Clyburn of South Carolina, 82 — announced their retirements at the end of their current terms, opening the path for new leaders such as current House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, 52.

Quite plainly, the best guides to politicians' adequacy are their words and actual performance in office. Few reach the highest echelons of American politics without leaving a record to be examined.

Republican presidential hopeful Nikki Haley, a former South Carolina governor, recently took a swipe at Biden's age, remarking that he would be unlikely to live to the end of his next term.

Does that tell you anything about what she has to offer as an alternative? No; for that you'd have to delve into her positions on gun control (after a deadly school shooting in Nashville, she called for more metal detectors at schoolhouse doors but not more gun legislation) or abortion rights (she's against them).

Who shows more mental acuity? Joe Biden, who occasionally stumbles over his words (apparently an artifact of his youthful stuttering)? Or Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.), who recently called for a "national divorce," i.e., secession by red states, at the age of 48?

Does the age of Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott explain his boasting about signing a 2021 law allowing almost any Texan to carry a gun in public — "No license or training is needed," he bragged in a tweet. Abbott was 63 at the time, a relative spring chicken. How has that worked out for his Texas constituents?

Concern-trolling about the advanced age of government leaders hasn't always been a path to political success. Franklin D. Roosevelt cited a "hardening of the judicial arteries" in announcing his 1937 scheme to pack the Supreme Court, which involved shifting the politics of the court to the left by trying to force justices to retire when they reached the age of 70, or adding a justice to the court for every sitting justice who refused.

By June that year, he told listeners of a fireside chat promoting the plan, five of the nine justices would be older than 75 — a standard that irked the oldest justice, the liberal eagle Louis D. Brandeis, who was 80. FDR's plan collapsed after it provoked widespread opposition, the most significant political failure of the New Deal.

Whether making an issue of politicians' age will have weight with the voting public is open to question. For one thing, the nation as a whole is moving up in years. By 2060, the population 65 or older will number 94.7 million, according to the Census Bureau; that would be a nearly 70% increase over the number in 2020. That segment will have grown from 17% of the population to 23%.

It's widely remarked that older cohorts vote at much higher rates than their younger compatriots, though that doesn't mean their individual political leanings necessarily skew in any particular direction.

Why are they more committed to participating in the franchise? It may be that their life experience has shown them how much is at stake in every election; it's certainly easier to convince them of the importance of programs such as Social Security than to deliver the same message to people for whom collecting benefits may be many decades in the future.

The only conclusion one can draw about age is that it's a very unreliable indicator of an individual's intellect, energy or ability. The proper reaction to anyone who tries to tell you that our gerontocracy is a political problem is to ask what more relevant truth they're trying to conceal.

"For decades and decades we've lived in a society that has devalued what it means to be older," Gendron says. "For me, the main message is, 'Don't get distracted by age, when age doesn't tell you something meaningful about someone.' "

Hiltzik writes a blog on latimes.com. Follow him on Facebook or on Twitter @hiltzikm or email michael.hiltzik @latimes.com.

The jury is still out on how GOP voters will judge Trump

All his legal problems may catch up with the ex-president — if his Republican rivals act.

MARK Z. BARABAK

There is a long list of descriptors used to identify Donald Trump: real estate magnate, reality TV star, former president, insurrectionist, criminally indicted payer of hush money.

As of Tuesday, a new particularly incriminating label can be added: sexual assailant.

Even so, the determination of a civil jury — that Trump physically brutalized writer E. Jean Carroll — seems unlikely to make much difference to his unshakable political base or, for now, change the fundamental dynamics of the 2024 presidential race.

"I don't see this moving the needle at all," said Charlie Cook, a nonpartisan campaign analyst who's spent decades handicapping elections. "Every time we've thought that something would hurt him, it hasn't."

That said, Trump still faces a raft of criminal investigations involving his efforts to overturn the 2020 election, the attempted Jan. 6 coup he inspired and the mishandling of purloined documents he spirited to his Mar-a-Lago retreat.

By the time Republican voters cast the first ballots next February in Iowa, will the cumulative weight of Trump's legal burdens — compounded by the verdict in Carroll's lawsuit — be enough to drive a significant number of GOP voters away?

That jury is still out.

A Manhattan panel of six men and three women deliberated less than three hours — barely enough time to cater lunch — before returning a verdict finding that Trump had forced himself on Carroll nearly three decades ago in the dressing room of an upscale Manhattan department store.

The jury found Trump liable for sexual abuse and defamation and awarded his victim $5 million in damages.

But if the swiftness of the decision seemed clear-cut and ringingly decisive, the verdict proved less so.

Jurors did not accept Carroll's claim the ex-president had raped her, rejecting the most inflammatory allegation and — crucially — keeping the combination of "rape" and "Trump" out of news headlines.

Even that might not have put off very many Trump's supporters.

His criminal indictment in March for paying hush money to hide an extramarital affair and steady his wobbling 2016 presidential campaign — a career killer under most circumstances — proved a fundraising bonanza and prompted many Republicans to rally behind Trump's bid to reclaim the White House.

Minutes after Tuesday's verdict was delivered, Mike Madrid, a founder of the anti-Trump Lincoln Project, wisecracked on Twitter, "That sound you hear is Trump's polling numbers going up in the Republican primary."

Perhaps.

A great deal will depend on what happens over the next several months — on the campaign trail even more than inside a courthouse — as the fight for the Republican nomination presumably heats up.

Most of Trump's GOP rivals have so far shown a reluctance to go beyond the merest, veiled criticism of Trump, or offered only weak-tea admonitions.

"The jury verdict should be treated with seriousness and is another example of the indefensible behavior of Donald Trump," former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson tut-tutted after Tuesday's verdict was delivered.

SETH WENIG Associated Press

E. JEAN CARROLL leaves Manhattan federal court after winning her lawsuit against Donald Trump.

That sort of gentility is not unusual for this stage of the campaign. As the balloting nears, and competition intensifies, candidates will have to make a strategic decision. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Trump's main rival at the moment, will in particular have to decide how openly and aggressively he wants go after the GOP front-runner.

"There is an available chunk of the Republican electorate that wants to move on from Trump," said Sarah Longwell, a GOP strategist and longtime Trump critic, who has conducted countless focus groups plumbing voter sentiments.

"The question that I've had is whether any of the candidates running against Trump have the political talent to take him on directly and seize that available audience," Longwell said. "Can they start outflanking Trump and showing people they can be a tougher fighter? Maybe. But nobody's figured out how to do that yet."

It is Trump's great good fortune that his political future won't be decided by the jury in Manhattan. He proved a perfectly terrible witness on his own behalf.

In a videotaped deposition — Trump did not take the stand — he seemed alternately bored and put upon, suggesting at one point that Carroll would have enjoyed being raped.

When presented a photograph of Carroll, he mistook his accuser, "not my type," for his second wife, Marla Maples. He defended his infamous hot-mic moment on "Access Hollywood" in which he said he could grab women by the genitals — "and when you're a star, they let you do it" — by saying that history backs him up.

"If you look over the last million years, I guess that's been largely true," Trump said in his deposition. "Not always, but largely true. Unfortunately, or fortunately."

Trump famously boasted during the 2016 campaign he could stand in the middle of Manhattan's 5th Avenue and shoot someone without losing votes.

Now, with Tuesday's swift verdict, he's about to test another proposition: whether he can sexually maul a woman in a Bergdorf Goodman changing room and still make that claim.

Belarusians grow wary of being drawn into battle

Leader welcomes many Russian troops while avoiding direct Ukraine involvement.

By Yuras Karmanau

Russian Defense Ministry Press Service

SOLDIERS participate in joint Russia-Belarus drills in Belarus in a video image released Feb. 4, 2022. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is deeply unpopular in Belarus, which has many citizens with family or personal ties there.

TALLINN, Estonia — For Ruslan, an engineer in the Belarusian capital, Minsk, Russia's war in neighboring Ukraine suddenly seemed closer than ever when a conscription office recently sent him a summons for military training.

It's part of an effort that will see thousands of men in Belarus attend drills amid fears that the country, a staunch Moscow ally, could be drawn into the fighting.

"They are telling us that Belarus won't enter the war against Ukraine, but I hear Russian warplanes roar over my house heading to the Machulishchy air base outside Minsk," the 27-year-old told the Associated Press in a telephone interview. He asked not to be fully identified out of concern for his personal safety.

"Russian troops are already in Belarus, and I see the country gradually being turned into a military barracks," he said. "Everybody fears that they won't allow Belarusians to keep watching the war from a distance for too long."

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko has welcomed thousands of Russian troops to his country, allowed the Kremlin to use it to launch the invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, and offered to station some of Russia's tactical nuclear weapons there. But he has avoided having Belarus take part directly in the fighting — for now.

Analysts and political opponents say that further involvement with regard to Ukraine could rekindle public anger against him and erode his iron-fisted grip on power, which has lasted for nearly 29 years.

Lukashenko, who meets regularly with Russian President Vladimir Putin, has relied on the Kremlin's political and economic support to survive months of protests, mass arrests and Western sanctions following an election in 2020 that kept him in power but that was widely seen at home and abroad as rigged.

Russia's invasion is deeply unpopular in Belarus, which shares a 690-mile border with Ukraine and has many citizens with family or personal ties there.

"The Belarusians don't see any sense in this war," said Svyatlana, a 54-year-old manager in Luninets. She asked not to be identified by her full name for her own security.

A new Belarusian air defense unit was formed recently in the city, she said, and "war fears have increased" as troop numbers have grown.

Belarusian military analyst Aliaksandr Alesin said that if the country's 45,000-member army is sent into Ukraine, there might be "mass refusals to follow orders."

He said Lukashenko won't do it "because he fears to stir up discontent among the military, who could turn their weapons in a different direction."

While agreeing to station some of Russia's tactical nuclear weapons in his country, Lukashenko cast the move as protection against what he described as NATO's aggressive plans and Western plots against his government.

"They don't bomb countries with nuclear weapons," Lukashenko said recently.

The construction of storage facilities for tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus will be finished by July 1, Putin said. Russia already has modified Belarusian warplanes to carry nuclear weapons and given its ally Iskander short-range missiles that can be fitted with a nuclear warhead. It also has trained Belarusian crews to operate the planes and missiles armed with nuclear weapons.

During the Cold War, Belarus hosted about two-thirds of Moscow's arsenal of nuclear-tipped intermediate range missiles, Alesin said, adding that dozens of Soviet-era storage sites can still be used for such weapons. Soviet nuclear weapons stationed in Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan were moved to Russia under a U.S.-brokered deal after the U.S.S.R.'s collapse in 1991.

"Belarus was a Soviet nuclear fortress, and now Putin and Lukashenko have decided to not only restore but to strengthen it," Alesin told the AP. "From Belarus, Russian nuclear-tipped missiles could reach Ukraine, the entire territory of Poland, the Baltics and part of Germany, and this 'Belarusian nuclear balcony' will rattle Western politicians' nerves for a long time to come."

Opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who challenged Lukashenko in the 2020 election after her activist husband was jailed, told the AP that hosting Russian nuclear weapons would turn the Belarusian people into hostages.

"The deployment of Russian nuclear weapons will make Belarus a target in case of an escalation and seriously jeopardize Belarusians' lives," said Tsikhanouskaya, who fled the country after the election and has become a fierce critic-in-exile of Lukashenko. "The two dictators have gone too far in their war games, and it will only lead to the toughening of Western sanctions."

Those sanctions have crippled the Belarusian economy, which shrank by a record 4.7% last year. Lukashenko hopes a 70% surge in trade with Russia last year will soften the impact and expects that Belarus will profit from Moscow's orders for electronics and other high-tech components for weapons systems.

Alesin said Moscow is providing Minsk "with cheap energy and loans and opens up its vast market in exchange for the opportunity to control the Belarusian military infrastructure."

Some of the 300,000 Russian reservists called up last fall by Putin as part of his partial mobilization are being trained on firing ranges in Belarus. Lukashenko has said 500 officers are helping train the Russians, who are camped next to Belarusian barracks.

But this growing involvement in Belarus in the Kremlin's war efforts is fomenting widespread resentment, said Belarusian political analyst Valery Karbalevich.

> 'This "Belarusian nuclear balcony" will rattle Western politicians' nerves for a long time to come.'
>
> — Aliaksandr Alesin, Belarusian military analyst

"A broad guerrilla movement has evolved in Belarus with its members blowing up railway tracks and Russian warplanes and attacking Russian and Belarusian official websites," Karbalevich said. "Belarus' transformation into a Russian military hub and its gradual drawing into the war has caused public discontent, forcing Lukashenko to escalate repressions."

BYPOL, an organization of former military and security officers who oppose Lukashenko, claimed responsibility for a February drone attack on a Russian A-50 early warning and control aircraft at the Machulishchy base. Authorities said they detained a suspect alleged to be behind the attack, along with 30 others who were charged with terrorism and could face capital punishment if convicted.

Raids across the country have resulted in 300 other arrests on suspicion of links to the guerrillas, according to the Viasna human rights center.

BYPOL leader Aliaksandr Azarau told AP that if Belarus enters the war in Ukraine, it would provide a boost for his group, which grew out of the 2020 election protests.

"If small Belarus starts getting coffins from Ukraine, it will inevitably stir up protests that the authorities barely managed to stifle with mass repressions," he said. "Lukashenko reasonably worries that entering the war would lead to a sharp rise of the guerrilla movement."

When Putin launched the invasion, Russian troops rolled into Ukraine from Belarus in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to capture Kyiv, only about 55 miles to the south. Parts of western Ukraine, including the railway hubs of Lviv and Lutsk, which are key conduits for Western weapons, also could be vulnerable to a potential incursion from Belarus.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky recently visited border guards in the northwestern Volyn region, urging vigilance against a possible incursion from Belarus.

"We haven't seen any preparations in Minsk, and Lukashenko so far has resisted being drawn into a war with Ukraine, but the situation may change as Belarus is getting increasingly militarized," said Ukrainian military analyst Oleh Zhdanov. "Lukashenko is ready to give Putin whatever he wants — except the Belarusian soldiers. But we aren't blind, and Kyiv is seriously worried about a sharp increase in the Russian military presence in Belarus."

Karbalevich, the Belarusian analyst, said that while Lukashenko probably will remain reluctant to enter the war, Moscow could dangle the threat of another incursion into Ukraine from Belarus to force Kyiv to keep a significant number of troops on the border.

"The poorly motivated and weak Belarusian military ... wouldn't make much of a change on the battlefield, but the Kremlin needs to keep showing Kyiv and the West that the Belarusian threat remains," he said. "It's more convenient for Putin to use Minsk as a military hub while maintaining the constant threat of Belarus entering the war to keep the pressure on Ukraine."

Karmanau writes for the Associated Press.

Putin says West has unleashed 'a real war' against Russia

The president's remarks come during scaled-down Victory Day celebrations.

Associated Press

President Vladimir Putin declared Tuesday that the West has unleashed "a real war" against Russia, reprising a familiar refrain at scaled-down Victory Day celebrations that may reflect the toll the Ukraine conflict is taking on his forces.

Putin's remarks came just hours after Moscow fired its latest barrage of cruise missiles at targets in Ukraine, which Russia invaded more than 14 months ago. Ukrainian authorities said air defenses destroyed 23 of 25 missiles launched.

The Russian leader has repeatedly sought to paint his invasion of Ukraine as necessary to defend against a Western threat. Kyiv and its Western allies say that they pose no such threat and that Moscow's war is meant to deter Western influence in a country Russia considers part of its sphere of influence.

"Today, civilization is once again at a decisive turning point," Putin said at Moscow's annual commemoration celebrating the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. "A real war has been unleashed against our motherland."

Putin has often used patriotic rhetoric that harks back to the earlier war in an effort to rally his citizens and forces, and May 9 is one of the most important dates on the Russian political calendar. But this year's celebrations were markedly smaller, at least partially because of security concerns after several drone attacks have been reported inside Russia.

Some 8,000 troops took part in the parade in Moscow's Red Square on Tuesday — the lowest number since 2008. Even the procession in 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, featured some 13,000 soldiers, and last year, 11,000 troops took part.

There was no flyover of military jets, and the event lasted less than the usual hour.

"This is weak. There are no tanks," said Yelena Orlova, watching vehicles rumble down Moscow's Novy Arbat avenue after leaving Red Square. "We're upset, but that's all right; it will be better in the future."

The Kremlin's forces deployed in Ukraine are defending a front line stretching more than 600 miles, presumably thinning the ranks of troops available for such displays.

"This is supposed to be a showpiece for Russian military might. But so much of that military might has already been mauled in Ukraine that Russia has very little to show on its parade in Red Square," said Keir Giles, a Russia expert at London's Chatham House think tank.

Alexey Maishev Sputnik

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and regional leaders walk in a Victory Day military parade to place flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow.

Meanwhile, the traditional Immortal Regiment march, in which crowds take to the streets holding portraits of relatives who died or served in World War II — a pillar of the holiday — were canceled in multiple cities.

"That seems to be for fear that those people who have lost their relatives in this current war on Ukraine might actually join the processions and show just the scale of the casualties that Russia has suffered in its current war," Giles said.

Russian media counted 24 Russian cities that also scrapped military parades — another staple of the celebrations — for the first time in years. Regional officials blamed unspecified "security concerns" or vaguely referred to "the current situation" for the restrictions and cancellations. It wasn't clear whether their decisions were made in coordination with the Kremlin.

Last week, Russia said it had foiled an attack by Ukrainian drones on the Kremlin that it called an unsuccessful assassination attempt on Putin. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said his country was not involved.

There was no independent verification of the purported attack, which Russian authorities said occurred overnight but presented no evidence to support it.

On a tribune in Red Square, Putin praised soldiers taking part in the war in Ukraine and urged Russians to stand together.

"Our heroic ancestors proved that there is nothing stronger, more powerful and more reliable than our unity. There is nothing in the world stronger than our love for the motherland," Putin said.

The guest list was also light amid Putin's broad diplomatic isolation over the war. Initially, only one foreign leader was expected to attend this year's parade — Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov. That was one more foreign guest than last year, when no leaders went.

At the last minute Monday, officials announced that leaders from Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were heading to Moscow as well.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian air force said in a Telegram post that eight Kalibr cruise missiles were fired from carriers in the Black Sea toward the east and 17 from strategic aircraft.

The missiles were launched hours before European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the European Union's executive branch, arrived in Kyiv. Von der Leyen urged EU member nations to take measures to prevent countries from helping Russia circumvent the bloc's sanctions. Certain products that have been banned to undermine Russia's war effort are still getting through, she said.

Von der Leyen did not name the countries, but unusual trade flows through China and Turkey have been on the EU's radar for some time.

Ukraine is keen to join the European Union, but membership has many prerequisites and is still a long way off. Ukraine is also hoping to join NATO, after moving closer to the Western military alliance during the war with Russia.

In the latest help from a North Atlantic Treaty Organization member, the U.S. was expected to announce Tuesday that it will provide $1.2 billion more in long-term military aid to Ukraine to further bolster its air defenses.

U.K. protesters decry arrests during coronation

Anti-monarchy group says it plans to take legal action against Scotland Yard.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — An anti-monarchy group says it plans to take legal action against Scotland Yard after several members were arrested as they prepared to protest the coronation of King Charles III.

Civil liberties groups are accusing Scotland Yard, also known as London's Metropolitan Police, and Britain's Conservative government of stifling the right to protest with new powers to clamp down on peaceful but disruptive demonstrations.

The police force expressed "regret" late Monday that the activists were prevented from protesting but defended its handling of the coronation, which drew hundreds of thousands of people to the streets of London — hundreds of protesters among them.

Police arrested 64 people around Saturday's coronation, most on suspicion of planning to disrupt the ceremonies. Four have been charged, most have been released on bail, and six members of the anti-monarchist group Republic have been freed and told they will not face charges.

Republic Chief Executive Graham Smith said three senior police officers came to his house and apologized in person for the arrest that saw him held in custody for 16 hours.

"I said for the record I won't accept the apology," Smith said, adding that the group "will be taking action."

The U.K.'s recently passed Public Order Act, introduced in response to civil disobedience by environmental groups, allows police to search demonstrators for items such as locks and glue and imposes penalties of up to 12 months in prison for protesters who block roads or interfere with "national infrastructure."

Police said the Republic members had items that could be used to "lock on" to infrastructure. Republic said the items were ties for their placards, and police acknowledged that the "investigation has been unable to prove intent to use them to lock on and disrupt the event."

LEILA DOUGAN Daily Maverick/Gallo Images

BRITONS protest at Trafalgar Square in London during Saturday's coronation. Scotland Yard has expressed "regret" over the arrest of anti-monarchist activists.

"We regret that those six people arrested were unable to join the wider group of protesters in Trafalgar Square and elsewhere on the procession route," the police force said.

Although the Conservative government defended police handling of the protests, London Mayor Sadiq Khan, a member of the opposition Labor Party, requested "further clarity" from Scotland Yard. He called the right to peaceful protest an integral part of democracy.

Conservative lawmaker David Davis said the new powers of arrest are too broad.

"No one wants a day ruined, but the right to put up placards is virtually absolute in British democracy," he told the BBC on Tuesday.

Scotland Yard is already under intense pressure after a series of scandals involving its treatment of women and minorities.

Confidence in the force plummeted after a serving officer raped and killed a young woman in 2020 in London.

An independent review commissioned after the murder said the force was riddled with racism, misogyny and homophobia.

Ex-premier Khan's arrest stirs violent unrest in Pakistan

The detention of the opposition leader sparks fierce protests across the country.

BY MUNIR AHMED AND RIAZAD BUTT

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was arrested and dragged from court Tuesday as he appeared to face charges in multiple graft cases — a dramatic escalation of political tensions that sparked violent demonstrations by his supporters in almost all of the country's major cities.

Khan, who was ousted in a no-confidence vote in April 2022 but remains the leading opposition figure, represents the latest confrontation to roil Pakistan, which has seen former prime ministers arrested over the years and interventions by its powerful military.

He was removed from the Islamabad High Court by security agents from the National Accountability Bureau, loaded into an armored car and whisked away, according to Fawad Chaudhry, a senior official with Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party.

Chaudhry denounced the arrest of the 71-year-old former cricket star as "an abduction." Pakistan's independent GEO TV broadcast video of Khan being taken away surrounded by his angry supporters.

After Khan was removed, a scuffle broke out between his supporters and police. Chaudhry said some of Khan's lawyers and supporters were injured in the scuffle, as were several officers.

Khan's party immediately complained to the Islamabad High Court, which requested a police report explaining the charges in his arrest.

Khan was later moved to the garrison city of Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, for questioning by the National Accountability Bureau, police and government officials said. He was also to undergo a routine medical checkup, police said.

Khan had arrived in Islamabad from the nearby city of Lahore, where he resides, to face the graft charges.

He has denounced the cases against him, which include terrorism charges, as a politically motivated plot by his successor, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, saying his ouster was illegal and a Western conspiracy. Khan has campaigned against Sharif and demanded early elections.

Tuesday's arrest was based on a new warrant from the National Accountability Bureau, obtained last week in a separate graft case for which Khan had not been granted bail, making him vulnerable to being seized. His lawyers have challenged the legality of the arrest. He is scheduled to appear at an anti-graft tribunal Wednesday, officials said.

"Imran Khan has been arrested because he was being sought in a graft case," Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan told a news conference. He alleged that Pakistan's treasury had lost millions of dollars while Khan was in office because of illegal purchases of land from a business tycoon.

At a news conference, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said Khan was arrested because he was not cooperating with the investigations. He denounced the violence by Khan's supporters, saying protests must remain peaceful.

"It should have not happened," he said shortly after TV video emerged of burning vehicles and damaged public property.

Authorities said they have banned rallies in the eastern province of Punjab.

As news of Khan's arrest spread, about 4,000 of his supporters stormed the official residence of the top regional commander in Lahore, smashing windows and doors, damaging furniture and staging a sit-in as troops there retreated to avoid violence. The protesters also burned police vehicles and blocked key roads.

K.M.CHAUDARY Associated Press

A SUPPORTER of former Prime Minister Imran Khan is tear-gassed Tuesday in Lahore, Pakistan.

Protesters smashed the main gate of the army's headquarters in Rawalpindi, where troops exercised restraint. Hundreds of demonstrators shouted pro-Khan slogans as they moved toward the sprawling building.

In the port city of Karachi, police swung batons and fired tear gas to disperse hundreds of Khan supporters who had blocked a major road.

Khan's arrest was "blatant interference in the judicial affairs by the powers that be," Raoof Hasan, another leader from Khan's party, told Al Jazeera English television. "We are completely in the dark. He was virtually abducted from the court of law."

Khan's arrest came hours after he issued a video message before heading to Islamabad, saying he was "mentally prepared" for arrest there.

Khan, who was wounded by a shooter during a rally in November — an attack that killed one of his supporters and wounded 13 — has insisted, without offering any evidence, that there is a plot to kill him and has alleged that Pakistan's spy agency was behind the conspiracy to assassinate him.

The gunman in that attack was immediately arrested; police later released a video of him in custody allegedly saying he had acted alone.

On Monday, the military in a statement criticized Khan for "fabricated and malicious allegations" of its involvement in the November shooting, saying the accusations were "extremely unfortunate, deplorable and unacceptable."

The military has directly ruled Pakistan for more than half of the 75 years since the country gained independence from British colonial rule and wields considerable power over civilian governments.

Sharif, whose government is facing a spiraling economy and is struggling to recover from flooding last year that killed hundreds and caused $30 billion in damage, slammed Khan for assailing the military.

"Let this be abundantly clear that you, as former prime minister, currently on trial for corruption, are claiming legitimacy to overturn the legal and political system," Sharif tweeted.

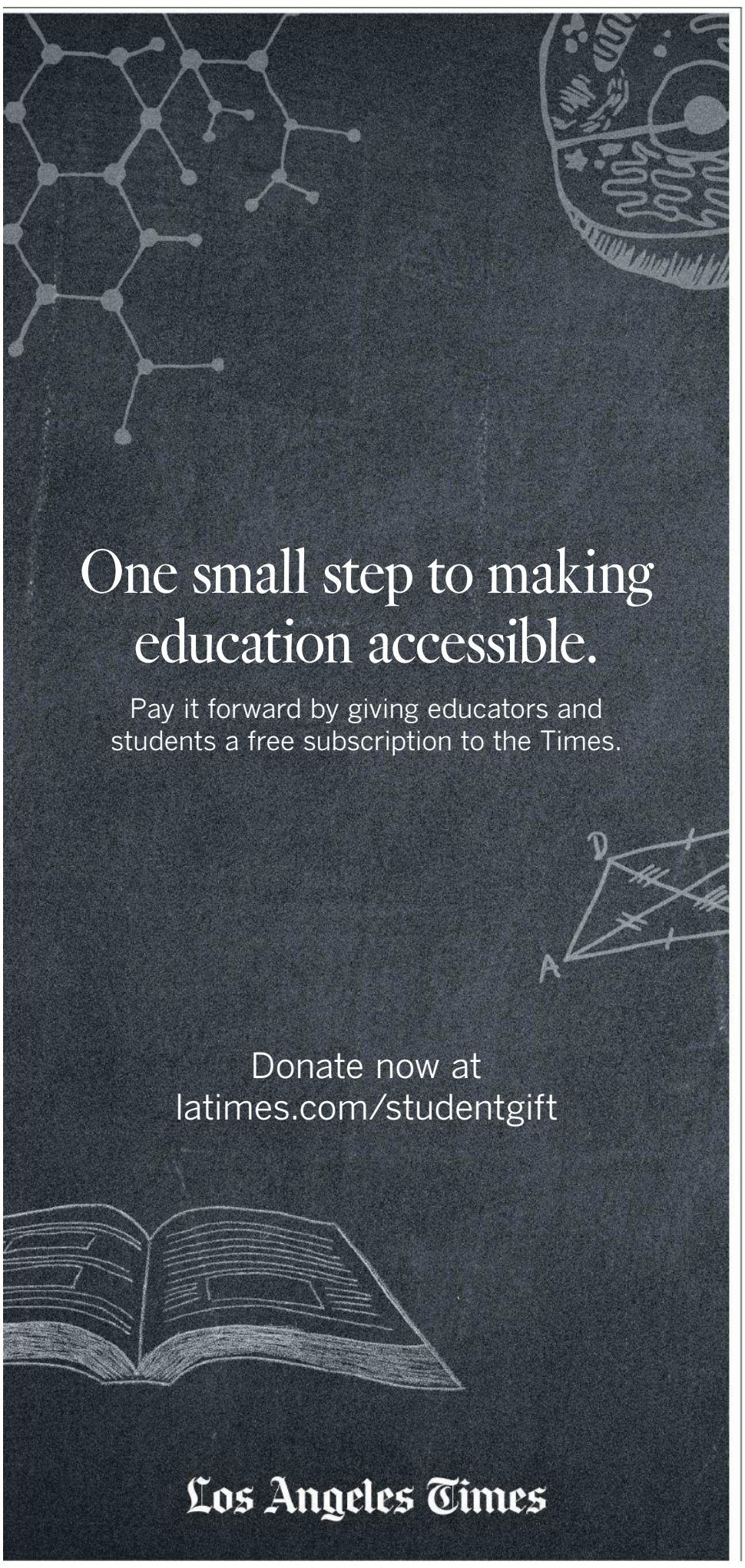
In a statement, the European Union urged "restraint and cool-headedness" in Pakistan through dialogue and the rule of law.

Khan is the seventh former prime minister to be arrested. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was arrested and hanged in 1979. The current prime minister's brother, Nawaz Sharif, who also served as premier, was arrested on several occasions on suspicion of corruption.

In March, police stormed Khan's Lahore residence, seeking to arrest him based on a court order in a different case. Dozens, including police officers, were injured in ensuing clashes. Khan was not arrested at the time.

Khan came to power in 2018 after his party won parliamentary elections.

Ahmed and Butt write for the Associated Press.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THE NATION

First of hundreds of troops arrive at the border

Forces are sent to help out as end of Title 42 health order brings more asylum seekers.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — About 550 U.S. active-duty troops have begun arriving along the Mexican border in the first group of military support ahead of an expected increase of migrants, Defense Department officials said Tuesday.

The forces will mainly be used to help monitor and watch the border as pandemic-era restrictions on asylum end, and they will have no contact with the migrants, the officials said.

More than 900 more soldiers, Marines and airmen will follow around the end of the month, as the Biden administration bolsters efforts to monitor the border and process incoming migrants. The initial plan calls for a 90-day deployment of the active-duty forces because they can be moved much more quickly to the border than National Guard or Reserve troops.

The Pentagon has said that some of the active-duty forces could be replaced over time by reservists, who need more time to deploy.

According to a Defense official, most of the active-duty troops will be doing monitoring and detection, which are done from trucks positioned along the border. They will replace border agents who normally do those jobs, freeing them up for enforcement and other tasks. In addition to monitoring the border, the troops will also do data entry and warehousing support.

The Defense official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet made public.

U.S. and international law give migrants the right to seek asylum, but the U.S. has used a public health law called Title 42 to expel migrants 2.8 million times since March 2020 on the grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19. Those restrictions are set to expire Thursday.

PATRICK T. FALLON AFP/Getty Images

A BORDER PATROL officer monitors migrants waiting to turn themselves in for asylum processing Tuesday after they crossed the border into El Paso.

Nearly all of the troops arriving at the border this week are Army soldiers, according to the official. The second group of more than 900, which will arrive later, will include about 300 soldiers, 550 Marines and 75 airmen, the official said. The soldiers will include military police units.

The Marines will come from Camp Pendleton outside San Diego and Camp Lejeune, N.C., said Marine Maj. Jim Stenger. The exact timing of their arrival was not given.

Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary, said that at least some of the troops will be used near El Paso.

Roughly 2,500 National Guard members are already spread across all sectors of the border, providing an array of support to Customs and Border Protection, including monitoring, detection and air transportation. The new infusion of troops will do some of that, as well as administrative and data-entry duties to free up border agents to deal more directly with the migrants. The military troops are not authorized to perform law enforcement duties.

Even with the COVID-19 asylum restrictions still in place, the administration has seen record numbers of people crossing the border, and President Biden has responded by cracking down on those who cross illegally and by creating new pathways meant to offer alternatives to a dangerous and often deadly journey.

U.S. sanctions El Chapo's son, cartel members over fentanyl

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The United States on Tuesday sanctioned a son of Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzmán, three members of the powerful Sinaloa cartel and two Mexican firms, alleging they trafficked fentanyl and other drugs into the U.S.

The sanctions came the day Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador talked with President Biden by phone about immigration and the fentanyl crisis.

A White House readout of the call said the two presidents recognized their nations' recent efforts to counter fentanyl and arms trafficking "by dismantling criminal networks."

The Treasury Department designated El Chapo's son Joaquin Guzmán López and others for financial sanctions, including a freeze on American-owned assets and bank accounts and a ban on Americans doing business with them. A Culiacan, Mexico, chemical and lab equipment company and a real estate business also were targeted for sanctions.

The latest penalties by the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control follow a set of April fentanyl trafficking charges brought against him and three other Guzmán sons, Ovidio Guzmán López, Jesús Alfredo Guzmán Salazar and Iván Archivaldo Guzmán Salazar, known as the Chapitos, or Little Chapos; and two dozen cartel members.

El Chapo was extradited in 2017 to the U.S., where he was convicted of a massive drug conspiracy that spread murder and mayhem for more than two decades. He was sentenced in 2019 to life in a U.S. prison.

Fentanyl is the deadliest drug in the U.S. today. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 71,000 people died in the country from overdosing on synthetic opioids such as fentanyl in 2021, up from about 58,000 the year before.

López Obrador has denied that drug cartels make fentanyl in Mexico, although he has acknowledged that precursor chemicals and finished fentanyl are smuggled into Mexico from China, an allegation China has denied.

Mexican government

OVIDIO Guzmán López, above, and three other sons of Joaquin Guzmán were indicted in the U.S. in April.

Mexico and China are the primary sources for fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances trafficked directly into the U.S., according to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Growing tensions between the U.S. and China on multiple fronts have made efforts to stop the importation of fentanyl more difficult, according to a Congressional Research Service report.

Most of the fentanyl trafficked in the United States comes from the Sinaloa cartel, the DEA says.

Joaquin Guzmán López was not in custody Tuesday, and it was unclear whether he had a lawyer who could speak on his behalf about the sanctions. A lawyer for El Chapo didn't return a message seeking comment.

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State calls for L.A. County youth halls to close

[**Juvenile,** from A1]
Department has failed to adequately staff the halls while holding youth in isolation for far longer than allowed under state guidelines. The department has also failed to meet state requirements related to use of force and performing safety checks on youths in isolation.

High-ranking officials at Nidorf and L.A.'s Central Juvenile Hall were either unaware of the Probation Department's corrective action plan or had failed to implement significant portions of it, according to the BSCC report.

"No significant items of noncompliance have been corrected. Staffing remains at deficient levels and there is no indication that the remaining aspects of the plan could be timely implemented so that the facilities would come into compliance by June 12, 2023," the BSCC report says.

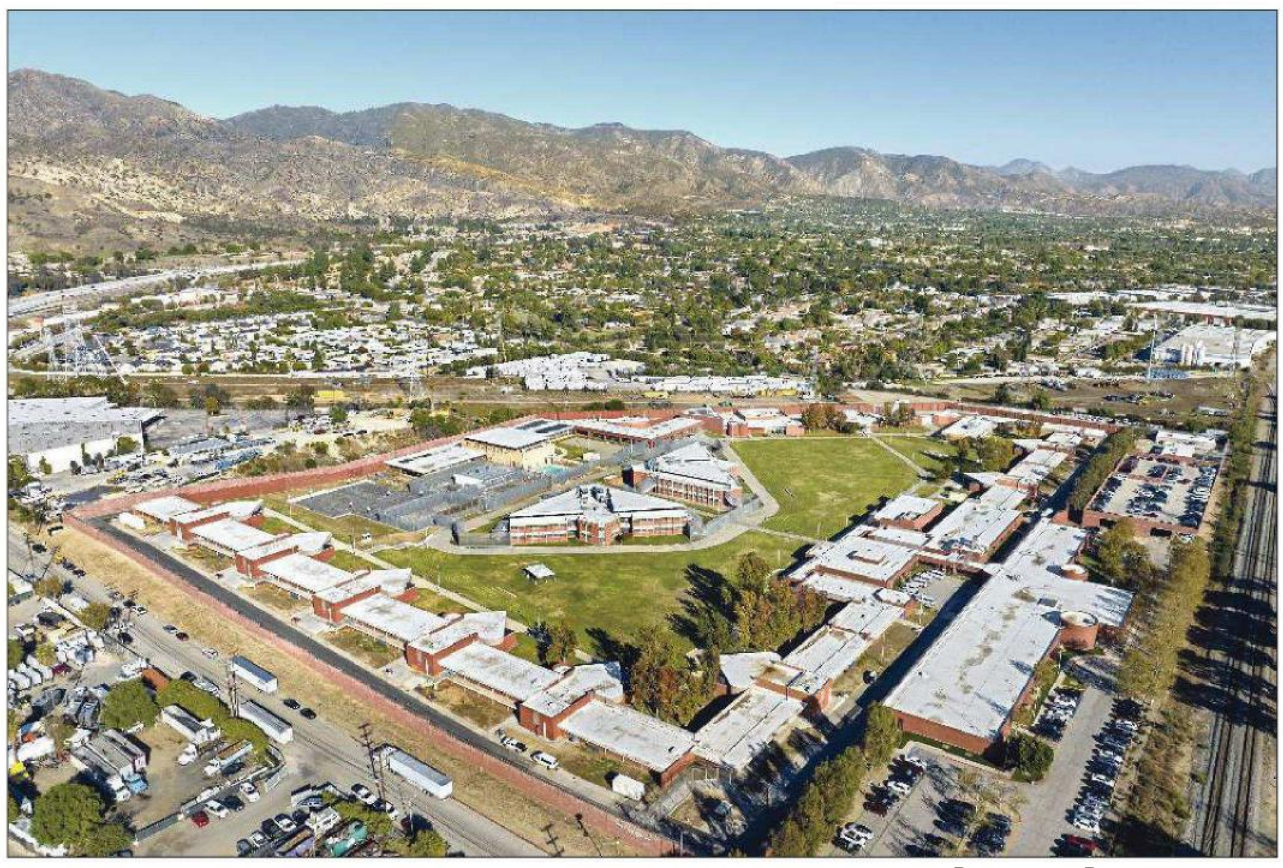
Tracie Cone, a BSCC spokeswoman, said the report was drafted before the 18-year-old's death. She declined to comment on the overdose. The BSCC does not have jurisdiction over Secure Youth Treatment Facilities in California but could have moved to shutter the hall where L.A. County hosts its SYTF program.

Shutting down the halls will require a simple majority vote of the board at its May 24 meeting, Cone said.

Guillermo Viera Rosa, the Probation Department's newly appointed chief strategist for juvenile operations, said in a statement that he agrees with the plan to close the halls.

"That's why the Board of Supervisors approved our plan last week to move this population of youth to the Los Padrinos facility, which will be renovated to meet the state standards," he said.

In response to questions about the overdose, Viera Rosa said he was "heartbroken" over the death and that nursing staff had administered Narcan immediately upon finding the young man. The Probation Department declined to answer additional questions about the overdose.



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

L.A. COUNTY'S Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar, where an 18-year-old died Tuesday of an overdose.

In a memo to his officers, however, Viera Rosa said he would launch stepped-up security measures to try to stem the flow of drugs into the juvenile halls. Staff and visitors will be allowed to enter with clear bags only, and members of the department's special enforcement operations team will begin conducting "extensive searches of all visitors and staff, as well as housing units," according to the document. The department also plans to issue metal-detector wands to some officers and obtain "vapor tracer machines" to detect trace amounts of drugs on people entering the halls.

Additionally, the memo calls for the "procurement of anti-drone technology" to stop "contraband drops" to the halls. While probation officials have long contended that drones are being used to ferry drugs to youths in the halls, several attorneys who routinely defend juvenile clients have dismissed the notion as an urban legend.

The Times has learned the 18-year-old's identity but is withholding it until notification of next of kin and because he was in a youth facility. A call to his attorney was not returned. Two sources said he had been dead for hours before being found by probation officials, raising questions about whether officers conducted mandatory safety checks overnight.

As news of the death broke Tuesday morning, juvenile justice advocates were furious that oversight agencies — specifically, the BSCC — had not moved to shut the L.A. County halls sooner.

The oversight body has deemed both Nidorf and Central unsuitable to house youths numerous times since 2021, and a Times investigation last year revealed that the halls were spiraling out of control as probation officers refused to come to work and reports of violence surged. Last month, the L.A. County Office of the Inspector General issued a report raising alarms about rampant drug use within the Secure Youth Treatment Facility.

The BSCC was expected to vote in April to shutter the halls due to the Probation Department's repeated failure to comply with state standards but punted at the last minute and gave the department a chance to implement a corrective action plan.

"There are a number of local and state agencies that were keenly aware of the inadequate staffing and supervision that has led to completely unsafe conditions at Barry J. Nidorf and within [the Secure Youth Treatment Facility]. Increasing incidents of overdoses and violence are publicly known," said Brooke Harris, executive director of the Pacific Juvenile Defender Center, who noted that Tuesday's death was "predictable."

"The BSCC has been grappling with issues before it for months and yet decided to give Los Angeles County an additional month to correct problems that had been present for two years," she continued. "This is an emergency, and it should never have reached a point where a young person died in the care of a dysfunctional county agency."

Concerns about drug use inside SYTF have increased in recent weeks. A report released last month by the inspector general detailed two incidents in late February in which youths were taken to local medical facilities or revived with Narcan after overdoses involving fentanyl. An early-March search of the unit where the teens overdosed uncovered pills laced with fentanyl and "two large bindles of what appeared to be fentanyl" inside a dormitory, according to the inspector general's report.

In a March hearing about those overdoses, an attorney representing one of the youths said they had recently been transitioned to L.A. from the state Division of Juvenile Justice, which Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered closed in 2019 and will be fully shut down by July.

The attorney, alternate public defender Angeles Zaragoza, said the youths did not have issues with drugs before returning to L.A. County, according to a transcript of the hearing.

During that hearing, L.A. County Superior Court Judge Miguel Espinoza expressed concern that the situation could soon turn fatal, as it did Tuesday.

"It appears that it was a stroke of luck that the individuals that came across these two youths were trained in the use of Narcan and actually had it accessible," Espinoza said. "If the youth had been in a different unit, or it had been at a time when there was an untrained staff member, it appears highly likely that one or both of the youths would have passed away."

A person who worked closely with the 18-year-old but requested anonymity for fear of retribution from county officials said the young man did not have issues with drugs before arriving at the SYTF.

"Everyone who had been in his unit was just, like, in disbelief, because he was such a good kid. His mom was, like, everything to him. He would call his mom. He would talk to his mom. ... He was helpful in the unit. ... All he wanted was car magazines," the county employee said.

"He was a fun kid to talk to," the employee added. "He was not some crazy, raging drug addict. He was a kid that was sent to Sylmar, and because of all the drugs over there ended up overdosing and dying."

The Probation Department did not respond to additional questions about the victim or the reason he was in custody.

All five members of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors described the death as indefensible and called for an investigation into how the overdose occurred.

"It is inexcusable for a young person to die of an overdose within the care and custody of Los Angeles County's juvenile halls," said Supervisor Holly Mitchell.

"His life mattered, and this failure is unacceptable," added Supervisor Lindsey Horvath. "We must do better."

But Hans Liang, president of the union representing deputy probation officers, said the supervisors' refusal to approve the hiring of new officers played a significant role in the 18-year-old's death.

"The officers did everything in their power to revive the youth, including applying CPR and administering Narcan," Liang said in a statement. "The bottom line is that the supervisors have created a critical staffing shortage, and youth and staff are paying the price. Our hearts go out to the youth's family and to the officers who are devastated by the tragic outcome."

Times staff writer Rebecca Ellis contributed to this report.

Author of book on grief held in husband's death

Woman who wrote children's volume after spouse died is charged with murder.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — After her husband died last year, she wrote a children's book on grief. Now she's charged with his murder.

Kouri Richins was arrested Monday in Utah and is accused in charging documents of poisoning her husband with a lethal dose of fentanyl at their home in Kamas, a small mountain town near Park City.

Prosecutors allege that Richins called authorities in the middle of the night in March 2022 to report that her husband, Eric Richins, was "cold to the touch."

The mother of three told officers that she had made her husband a mixed vodka drink to celebrate his sale of a home and then went to soothe one of their kids to sleep in the child's bedroom. She later returned and, upon finding her husband unresponsive, called 911.

A medical examiner later found five times the lethal dosage of fentanyl in his system.

In addition to the murder charge, Richins also faces counts involving the alleged possession of GHB — a narcolepsy drug frequently used in recreational settings, including at dance clubs.

The charges — which are based on officers' interactions with Richins that night and the account of an "unnamed acquaintance" who claims to have sold her the fentanyl — come two months after Richins appeared on local television to promote "Are You With Me?" a picture book she wrote to help children cope after the death of a loved one.

For the TV segment, titled "Good Things Utah," Richins called her husband's death unexpected and described how it sent her and her three boys reeling.

For children, she said, grieving was about "making sure that their spirit is always alive in your home."

"It's — you know — explaining to my kid just because he's not present here with us physically, doesn't mean his presence isn't here with us," Richins told the anchors, who commended her as an amazing mother.

Richins' attorney, Skye Lazaro, declined to comment on the charges.

KPCW.org

KOURI RICHINS wrote "Are You With Me?" after her husband died. She is accused of poisoning him.

Texas shooting victims identified

Two schoolgirl sisters, a couple and their 3-year old are among eight slain at a mall.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — The eight people killed by a gunman at a mall near Dallas over the weekend include two schoolgirl sisters, a couple and their 3-year-old son, a young engineer and a security guard. The victims represent a cross-section of the metropolitan area's increasingly diverse suburbs.

Cox Elementary School students Daniela and Sofia Mendoza were among those slain Saturday at Allen Premium Outlets, according to officials in the Wylie Independent School District. They were remembered as "the kindest, most thoughtful students with smiles that could light up any room," Principal Krista Wilson said in a letter to parents.

Also killed at the outdoor shopping center were three members of a Korean American family: a couple and one of their sons, who was 3. Another son was wounded and is still hospitalized, said Myoung-Joon Kim, head of mission at the South Korean Consulate in Dallas. The parents were identified by the Texas Department of Public Safety as Kyu Song Cho, 37, and Cindy Cho, 35.

Andria Gaither, assistant manager at the mall's Tommy Hilfiger store, said she was devastated to learn the day after running for her life when shots were fired that one of the dead was Christian LaCour, a 20-year-old security guard who previously worked at the clothing store and often stopped in to chat.

Just a few nights earlier, she had called LaCour when a customer wanted to enter the store after hours. He came and asked the man to leave, and then offered a security escort to her and two teenage employees.

TONY GUTIERREZ Associated Press

JENNIFER SEELEY signs a cross at a makeshift memorial created near a Dallas-area outlet mall where a gunman killed eight people on Saturday.

"He wanted us to feel safe," Gaither said.

"I'm just in shock," she added. "He was very young, very sweet, came in all the time to visit with us."

Also killed was Aishwarya Thatikonda, 26, who was from India, held a graduate degree in construction management and worked as a civil engineer at the Dallas-area firm Perfect General Contractors.

She was "always prepared to give her very best," company founder Srinivas Chaluvadi said via email.

He said her parents live in Hyderabad, India, where her father is a judge.

"She came to the United States with a dream to make a career, build a family, own a home and live forever in Dallas," Chaluvadi said.

Chaluvadi said that Thatikonda would have turned 27 next week and that she had become like family. "She attended birthday parties at my home, we celebrated festivals together, and we had family dinners," he wrote.

An aunt of the Mendoza sisters said their mother was still hospitalized and asked for prayers.

"Please pray for our now broken family. The girls have left a void that nothing in the world could ever fill. Please pray for their mom, my sister, and her broken heart," wrote Anabel Del Angel in a fundraising post verified by GoFundMe. She also asked for prayers for the girls' father.

Jena Blue, who lives down the street from the Mendoza family, has been to their garage sales and seen Ilda Mendoza walk her two daughters to school.

"She just seemed like a mom just like me," Blue said.

For Halloween, she said the Mendozas would have a screen playing movies while another neighbor next door would serve snacks and drinks.

"Whenever you would round the corner right by their house, you'd get, like, a hot dog, a treat and chips. And watch a movie," Blue said.

The Texas Department of Public Safety identified the eighth victim as Elio Cumana-Rivas, 32.

Authorities are still trying to piece together what led to the attack, which ended when the gunman, identified by authorities as 33-year-old Mauricio Garcia, was fatally shot by police.

Federal officials are looking into whether Garcia expressed an interest in white supremacist ideology, a law enforcement official told the Associated Press. The official cautioned that the investigation is in its early stages.

Federal agents have been reviewing social media accounts they believe Garcia used, as well as posts that expressed interest in white supremacist and neo-Nazi views, said the official, who could not discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Jury finds Trump liable for sexual abuse in 1996

[**Trump,** from A1]
all time." He promised to appeal.

Trump's lawyer, Joseph Tacopina, shook hands with Carroll and hugged her lawyer, Roberta Kaplan, after the verdict was announced. Outside the courthouse, he told reporters that the jury's decision to rule in Trump's favor on the rape claim but still find him responsible for sexual assault was "perplexing" and "strange."

"Part of me was obviously very happy that Donald Trump was not branded a rapist," he said.

He defended Trump's absence from the trial, saying he would have entered "a circus atmosphere, and having him be here would be more of a circus."

Tacopina added: "What more can you say other than 'I didn't do it.' And he said that on the road."

In a statement released after she left the courthouse smiling but without speaking, Carroll said she sued Trump to "clear my name and to get my life back. Today, the world finally knows the truth. This victory is not just for me but for every woman who has suffered because she was not believed."

Kaplan said in a statement that she hoped her client's case would prove nobody is above the law, "not even the president of the United States."

It was unclear what, if any, implications the verdict would have on Trump's third bid for the presidency. He's in a commanding position among Republican contenders and has faced few political consequences in the wake of previous controversies, including the vulgar "Access Hollywood" tape and his criminal indictment in New York.

His GOP rivals were largely silent in the immediate aftermath of the verdict, a sign of their reluctance to cross Trump's supporters who are critical to winning the presidential nomination. Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, one of the few vocal Trump critics in the race, said the verdict is "another example of the indefensible behavior of Donald Trump."

Carroll was one of more than a dozen women who have accused Trump of sexual assault or harassment. She went public in 2019 with her allegation that he raped her in the dressing room of a posh Manhattan department store.

Trump, 76, denied it, saying he never encountered Carroll at the store and did not know her. He has called her a "nut job" who invented "a fraudulent and false story" to sell a memoir.

Carroll, 79, had sought unspecified damages, plus a retraction of Trump's defamatory denials of her allegations.

The trial revisited the lightning-rod topic of Trump's conduct toward women.

Carroll gave multiple days of frank, occasionally emotional testimony, buttressed by two friends who told jurors she reported the attack to them in the moments and day afterward.

Jurors also heard from Jessica Leeds, a former stockbroker who testified that Trump abruptly groped her against her will on an airplane in the 1970s, and from Natasha Stoynoff, a writer who said Trump forcibly kissed her against her will while she was interviewing him for a 2005 article.

The six-man, three-woman jury also saw the well-known 2005 "Access Hollywood" hot mic recording of Trump talking about kissing and grabbing women without their permission.

The verdict comes as Trump is facing an accelerating swirl of legal risks.

He's fighting a New York criminal case related to hush money payments made to a porn actor. The state attorney general has sued him, his family and his business over alleged financial wrongdoing.

Trump is also contending with investigations into his possible mishandling of classified documents, his actions after the 2020 election and his activities during the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Trump denies wrongdoing in all of those matters.

Carroll, who penned an advice column for Elle for 27 years, has also written for other magazines and "Saturday Night Live." She and Trump were in social circles that overlapped at a 1987 party, where a photo documented them and their then-spouses interacting.

According to Carroll, she ended up in a dressing room with Trump after they ran into each other at Bergdorf Goodman on an unspecified Thursday evening in spring 1996.

They took an impromptu jaunt to the lingerie department so he could search for a women's gift, and soon the two were teasing each other about trying on a skimpy bodysuit, Carroll testified. To her, it seemed like comedy, something like her 1986 "Saturday Night Live" sketch in which a man admires himself in a mirror.

But then, she said, Trump slammed the door, pinned her against a wall, planted his mouth on hers, yanked her tights down and raped her as she tried to break away. Carroll said she ultimately pushed him off with her knee and immediately left the store.

"I always think back to why I walked in there to get myself in that situation," she testified, her voice breaking, "but I'm proud to say I did get out."

She soon confided in two friends, according to her and them. But she never called police or told anyone else — or noted it in her diary — until her memoir was published in 2019.

Carroll said she kept silent out of fear that Trump would retaliate, out of shame and out of a sense that other people quietly denigrate rape victims and see them as somewhat responsible for being attacked.

Trump weighed in on the case from afar, branding it "a made up SCAM" in a social media post early in the trial. U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan called the comments "entirely inappropriate" and warned that the former president could cause himself more legal woes if he kept it up.

Tacopina told the jury that Carroll made up her allegations after hearing about a 2012 "Law & Order: SVU" episode in which a woman is raped in the dressing room of the lingerie section of a Bergdorf Goodman store.

Carroll "cannot produce any objective evidence to back up her claim because it didn't happen," he told jurors. He accused her of "advancing a false claim of rape for money, for political reasons and for status."

In questioning Carroll, he sought to cast doubt on her description of fighting off the far heavier Trump without dropping her handbag or ripping her tights, and without anyone around to hear or see them in the retailer's lingerie section.

The lawyer pressed her about not screaming, looking for help while fleeing the store, or seeking out medical attention, security video or the police.

Carroll reproached him.

"I'm telling you he raped me, whether I screamed or not," she said.

There's no possibility of Trump being charged criminally, as the legal time limit has long since passed.

For similar reasons, she initially filed her civil case as a defamation lawsuit, saying Trump's derogatory denials had subjected her to hatred, shredded her reputation and harmed her career.

Then, starting last fall, New York state gave people a chance to sue over sexual assault allegations that would otherwise be too old. Carroll was one of the first to file.

Ed Jones AFP/Getty Images

E. JEAN CARROLL arrives at Manhattan federal court. She smiled through tears as the verdict was read.

Rep. Santos facing charges, report says

News of case against GOP congressman stirs interest in ouster, local Democrat says.

By Noah Goldberg

Federal prosecutors reportedly filed criminal charges Tuesday against freshman GOP Rep. George Santos, a move that has reignited interest in a California Democrat's resolution to expel him from Congress.

The charges were filed under seal, according to CNN, so it was not clear what crimes Santos is charged with committing. Questions raised about Santos (R-N.Y.) include whether he financed his campaign legally.

Rep. Robert Garcia (D-Long Beach) said he'd heard from "numerous" House members Tuesday about his resolution to oust Santos. It has about 40 co-authors, with a few Republicans showing interest as well.

"That number continues to grow, and will continue to grow over the next few days," he said. "Numerous members reached out since the charges were announced."

Garcia called on Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) to move the resolution forward in the House.

A spokesperson for the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York declined to comment Tuesday on whether Santos had been charged.

Several accusations of criminal activity have swirled around the Republican, whose lies about his background left even some members of his own party calling for his resignation from Congress.

Santos told an Associated Press journalist who contacted him about the charges Tuesday afternoon: "That's news to me. You're the first to call me about this."

The House Ethics Committee has been investigating Santos in a widespread inquiry into concerns including whether he "engaged in unlawful activity" involving his 2022 campaign and engaged in sexual misconduct toward a person seeking a job in his office.

His election last year in a Long Island, N.Y., district helped the GOP win a narrow House majority. But his background quickly came under scrutiny when the New York Times exposed fabrications that he had used in his campaign.

Santos had claimed he attended New York University and graduated from Baruch College, but later admitted he hadn't graduated from college. He also admitted that he had never worked directly for Citigroup or Goldman Sachs, as he had initially claimed.

Kent Nishimura Los Angeles Times

REP. GEORGE Santos (R-N.Y.) has faced accusations on issues including campaign financing since false claims about his background were exposed last year.

Mammograms should start at 40, panel says

[**Mammogram,** from A1]
women could safely wait until 50 to begin having their breasts scanned for signs of potential malignancies. The panel also said women at average risk could be screened every other year instead of annually.

In calling for fewer mammograms over a woman's lifetime, the task force cited the frequency with which breast cancers were overdiagnosed, leading to invasive yet unnecessary treatment, as well as the harms that come from needless biopsies and other workups done in response to false-positive test results. It also recognized that mammograms expose women to radiation, which in some cases could wind up causing cancer in otherwise healthy women.

Those recommendations touched off a firestorm and were denounced by women's health advocates, who have long argued that early detection gives the best chance of survival.

What prompted the task force to change its mind and advise that screening mammograms begin at 40? The members said they were strongly influenced by the experiences of Black women, who tend to develop aggressive breast cancers earlier than white women do, and to die of them more often. According to one study, Black women are 39% more likely to die of breast cancer than the population of women as a whole.

Screening women of color for breast cancer earlier is just the first of many steps that must be taken to close persistent gaps along ethnic lines. For Black, Hispanic, Latina, Asian, Native American and Alaska Native women, timely follow-up and effective treatment for breast cancer will be needed as well, the experts warned.

Also driving the changes in the draft recommendations is a growing recognition of the risks faced by women with dense breasts, which make malignancies both more common and harder to detect on mammographic images.

Almost half of all women have dense breasts, and the task force members said they had little research to guide them on whether to recommend additional screening or other kinds of imaging, such as MRI or ultrasound.

"New and more inclusive science about breast cancer in people younger than 50 has enabled us to expand our prior recommendation and encourage all women to get screened every other year starting at age 40," said Dr. Carol Mangione, chief of internal medicine at UCLA and the chair of the group that wrote the task force's proposed recommendation. The new guidelines "will help save lives and prevent more women from dying due to breast cancer," she added.

Dr. Patricia Ganz, a breast cancer expert at UCLA who has served on many cancer-screening panels, said that there is little new evidence driving the task force's shift. But she called the group's focus on addressing racial inequities in breast cancer "very, very important." And she said the every-other-year mammography schedule is in line with practices in Canada and Europe.

"I do think this is a very good recommendation: It leaves doctors and their patients a lot of flexibility" to decide how aggressive or relaxed their breast cancer screening should be, Ganz said. "The fact that they recommend starting at 40 means these women will have an opportunity early to engage in a process of calculating their personal risks."

> 'That's just going to exacerbate the racial disparities.'
>
> — Dr. Debra L. Monticciolo, who says data show every-other-year screenings may endanger Black women and Jewish women

In doing so, women find they are subject to a range of breast-cancer screening recommendations.

The American Cancer Society suggests women begin annual mammograms at 45, then consider switching to biennial tests at 55. Women who would prefer to begin annual screening at 40 can do so, and they should continue getting mammograms as long as they expect to live at least 10 more years, the ACS adds.

The American College of Radiology and Society of Breast Imaging recommend annual mammography screening for all women ages 40 and older who are at average risk of breast cancer.

Neither group suggests that 75 should be a hard upper limit for screening mammograms. But the American College of Radiology has recommended that all women have a risk assessment for breast cancer by the age of 25, and discuss with their doctor whether earlier screening with mammography and/or MRI is needed.

Dr. Debra L. Monticciolo, a radiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital, was highly critical of the task force's decision to recommend mammograms every other year considering that Black women and Jewish women die from breast cancer prior to age 50 — or even 40 — more often than white women as a whole. "That's just going to exacerbate the racial disparities," she warned.

"Their own evidence shows that the most lives are saved with yearly screening," said Monticciolo, who led the drafting of the American College of Radiology/Society of Breast Imaging recommendations. "With annual screening of women 40 to 79, you get a 42% mortality reduction. Limit that to every other year, and it drops the mortality reduction to 30%. These are women's lives that would be saved. I don't know what their thinking is here."

The task force noted other consequences of shifting from the least intensive to the most intensive screening schedule, however. The number of mammograms a typical woman received tripled, as did the number of false positive readings. The rate of overdiagnosis more than doubled, from 8% of cases to 17%.

Dr. Otis Brawley, a Johns Hopkins oncologist and cancer epidemiologist, said that although it seems counterintuitive that screening less often could save more lives, it's a possibility that cries out for rigorous testing.

"Even many experts can't come to grips with how many cancers are caused by mammogram screening and how many deaths are diverted by that screening," said Brawley. People who carry genes that predispose them to some cancers may be particularly vulnerable to radiation-induced mutations, he said. "But that's not a trade-off that's been explored with strong research," he added.

The task force made clear that its new recommendations were not undergirded with rock-solid confidence. That women should begin getting mammograms at 40 had its most solid research backing. But the task force assigned far lower confidence values to its every-other-year schedule of mammography, and to the idea that breast-cancer detection after 75 may not be lifesaving.

"There is very limited research on this age population," the group's report acknowledged.

The draft recommendation will be open for public comment until June 5. Comments can be submitted on the task force's website, https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/breast-cancer-screening-draft-recommendation

Neumeister, Peltz and Sisak write for the Associated Press.

BUSINESS

Port of Long Beach

AN ARTIST'S rendering shows Pier Wind, a turbine project that would involve creating as much as 400 acres of new land at the Port of Long Beach for a terminal. The facility would cost nearly $5 billion, officials said.

Long Beach port aims for huge wind turbine project by 2035

Floating structures could be towed to other sites to provide power for rest of state.

By Noah Goldberg

Within about a dozen years, floating wind turbines — as tall as the Eiffel Tower — will stand alongside the cranes and cargo containers at the Port of Long Beach as part of the largest offshore wind turbine facility in any U.S. port.

Once assembled in the Port of Long Beach, the 1,100-foot-tall turbines can be towed by sea to locations in Central and Northern California to generate renewable energy for the state.

The Port of Long Beach on Tuesday released plans for the offshore wind project — dubbed Pier Wind — to generate up to 20 megawatts of energy per turbine for the state, helping California move toward a zero-emission future.

"As society transitions to clean energy, our harbor is ideally located for such an enterprise — with calm seas behind a federal breakwater, one of the deepest and widest channels in the U.S., direct access to the open ocean and no air height restrictions," Port of Long Beach Executive Director Mario Cordero said in a statement. "No other location has the space to achieve the economies of scale needed to drive down the cost of energy for these huge turbines."

The massive project would involve creating as much as 400 acres of new land for a terminal capable of handling heavy-lift crane operations and would cost nearly $5 billion, according to port officials. Construction is more than three years out as local officials still need to plan with state and federal entities.

The wind turbine facility could be operational by 2035, port officials said.

The 20 megawatts that each turbine can generate could produce all the 25 gigawatts of energy California hopes to generate via offshore wind by 2045 if the port is able to install between 1,000 and 1,600 of the turbines, according to a spokesman.

Shaq cries foul in FTX fraud suit

Summons 'tossed' at his car wasn't properly served, his lawyers say. Plaintiffs disagree.

By Joel Rosenblatt

Basketball legend Shaquille O'Neal is moving to block another shot from the lawyers who chased him for months to serve a lawsuit accusing him of duping investors in the FTX crypto exchange.

A legal document "tossed" at the front of O'Neal's car as he drove quickly through the gates of his Georgia home doesn't count as properly serving a lawsuit, his attorneys say.

The 7-foot-1 former Los Angeles Lakers star and NBA commentator is among the numerous celebrities targeted in a suit alleging they funneled investors into a Ponzi scheme by promoting FTX's unregistered securities.

O'Neal stood as a holdout among the group for not acknowledging receipt of the complaint despite what plaintiffs' lawyers said were dozens of attempts to present it to him at known residences in Georgia, Texas and elsewhere, according to court filings.

A month ago, the plaintiffs' lawyers said they were ready to try an alternative method after their process server received a threatening text message stating that O'Neal lives in the Bahamas.

The lawyers sent an electronic link to the lawsuit to O'Neal on social media, arguing that should be good enough given his status as an active user of Instagram and Twitter.

They said he was clearly aware of the suit, having denied allegations of wrongdoing related to FTX in a December interview with CNBC, and they noted that electronic service is permitted under Texas law. But the judge wouldn't allow it.

The Moskowitz Law Firm finally declared success on April 17 when process servers caught up with O'Neal outside his Atlanta home. The lawyers took a Twitter victory lap, declaring: "Plaintiffs in the billion $ FTX class action case just served @SHAQ outside his house. His home video cameras recorded our service and we made it very clear that he is not to destroy or erase any of these security tapes, because they must be preserved for our lawsuit."

Or so they thought.

O'Neal's lawyers said in a filing Monday that the plaintiffs missed their deadline and that throwing the documents at his car falls short of legal requirements. They asked the judge to dismiss the suit against O'Neal in its entirety.

Investors have "had months and multiple tries," O'Neal's lawyers wrote. "Mr. O'Neal has not evaded service by failing to be at the residences where plaintiffs belatedly attempted service or by driving past strangers who approached his car." The documents landed on a public road, according to the filing.

Plaintiffs' attorney Adam Moskowitz called O'Neal's filing "really disappointing and surreal."

"The video will show Mr. O'Neal finally being served, after many months of hiding, as he attempts to possibly injure the process server," Moskowitz said in an email. "Mr. O'Neal and his lawyers need to stop running and finally deal with these serious allegations."

Roberto Martínez, a lawyer for O'Neal, didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Rosenblatt writes for Bloomberg.

Fox Corp. posts loss of $50 million

Red ink comes after settlement of a lawsuit by Dominion over election falsehoods.

By Stephen Battaglio

The fallout from the landmark $787.5 million that Fox News paid to settle the Dominion Voting Systems defamation case continued Tuesday as parent company Fox Corp. reported a $50-million loss in the third quarter.

The net loss is a massive swing from the $290 million in net income reported during the same period a year ago and underscored the financial toll of the case on the conservative cable news network.

Counting legal fees, the legal settlement with Dominion cost the company $850 million and was the main source of the loss in the quarter, despite an 18% increase in revenue to $4.08 billion.

The Dominion lawsuit alleged that Fox News damaged the electronic voting systems company's reputation when the network repeatedly spread falsehoods about voter fraud in the 2020 election. The aftermath has disrupted the top-rated cable news network.

Just six days after the April 18 settlement, Fox News fired top-rated conservative host Tucker Carlson.

The network gave no reason for severing ties, but sources close to the company said Rupert Murdoch and other executives had multiple reasons for terminating Carlson.

The evidence and depositions in the Dominion case revealed texts by Carlson that were critical of Fox News correspondents who fact-checked the unfounded election fraud claims on the network, even though he did not believe them himself.

Another factor in Carlson's ouster, sources said, was a lawsuit against the network by former Fox News producer Abby Grossberg, who alleged that she was subjected to antisemitic comments and a hostile work environment while employed on Carlson's program.

Ratings have plummeted for Fox News in prime time since Carlson's departure as temporary hosts have appeared in the 8 p.m. Eastern hour where "Tucker Carlson Tonight" had been averaging more than 3 million viewers.

Even with the decline, Fox News still held a lead over MSNBC and CNN in viewers last week, according to Nielsen data.

"Fox & Friends" co-host Brian Kilmeade and weekend host Lawrence Jones filled in the first two weeks. Kayleigh McEnany, former Trump White House press secretary and co-host of the Fox News daytime show "Outnumbered," is in the host chair this week. The hour has lost more than half its audience and on Friday trailed MSNBC and CNN in the 25-to-54 age group favored by advertisers.

Fox Corp. shares fell 1.5% on Tuesday.

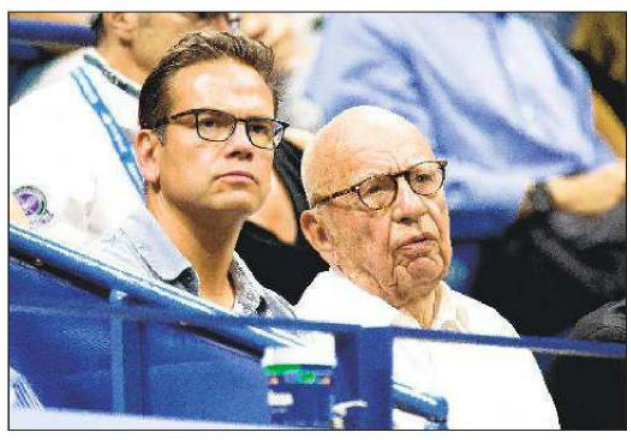
Fox Corp. Executive Chairman Lachlan Murdoch told analysts in a conference call that the network agreed to the expensive settlement to avoid a long and costly court battle.

"We made the business decision to resolve this dispute and avoid the acrimony of a divisive trial and a multi-year appeal process," Murdoch said.

Murdoch said there is no plan to alter the direction of Fox News' prime-time programming — where the network's staunchest conservative commentary occurs — after the departure of Carlson, whose outrageous comments about immigration and race were targeted by critics and scared away many brand-name advertisers.

"There's no change to our programming strategy at Fox News," Murdoch said. "It's obviously a successful strategy. And as always, we are adjusting our programming and our lineup, and that's what we continue to do."

Fox News has a track record of sustaining its audience levels after high-profile on-air personalities leave the network involuntarily or otherwise.



Adrian Edwards GC Images

FOX CORP. Executive Chairman Lachlan Murdoch, left, is seen with his father, Rupert Murdoch, in 2018.

SpaceX needs a stronger pad for its next Starship launch

By Loren Grush

Before SpaceX can try again to send its massive Starship rocket into orbit, the company needs to repair and renovate its badly damaged launch site in southern Texas.

It's unclear whether the design changes that SpaceX is planning will be sufficient. The launch attempt April 20 destroyed the structure below the launchpad, sending chunks of sand, concrete and steel thousands of feet into the sky and setting fire to a nearby park.

To ensure that each subsequent flight doesn't fling debris everywhere, the company is adding a new feature: a pair of massive steel plates with pressurized water to help dampen the effects of as many as 33 Raptor engines igniting during takeoff.

Industry experts aren't sure that will be enough to prevent another "rock tornado," the phrase Chief Executive Elon Musk used to describe the damaging combination of power, heat and gas that left a gigantic crater below Starship.

When it comes to fire diversion and dampening tactics, the gold standard in the launch industry has been to build some kind of flame trench — a long, often V-shaped duct that helps redirect the massive energy and gas away from the launchpad and the rocket itself.

Typically used in combination with a water-deluge system, it's fairly standard infrastructure for practically any orbital rocket today — including rockets launched by SpaceX.

"It's sort of astonishing to me that they didn't use the practices that the launch industry has perfected for decades," said George Sowers, a professor of mechanical engineering at the Colorado School of Mines who previously worked for Martin Marietta, Lockheed Martin and United Launch Alliance.

Whenever a rocket is ignited, scientists must account for a number of factors that can damage the rocket and surrounding area. The most obvious one is heat from the engines. Another is sound; the heightened acoustics of the engines produce a lot of energy. And a third issue is fast-moving gas plumes generated by the engines.

"It is thousands and thousands of pounds per second impacting on that concrete," said Tory Bruno, CEO of United Launch Alliance, one of SpaceX's competitors.

Gases generated by Starship are probably to blame for the debris from the test launch, Sowers said.

Starship is designed to bring humans, including NASA astronauts, to deep-space destinations such as the moon and, eventually, Mars. SpaceX conducted its first test flight, which exploded shortly after liftoff, without a crew, but it has a contract with NASA to send astronauts to the moon later this decade.

When asked why SpaceX wasn't considering adding a flame trench, Musk said in a Twitter Spaces conversation on April 29 that steel plates were another option and "we're pretty confident this will work."

The company didn't immediately respond to requests for further comment on its plans.

SpaceX's plan consists of two steel plates — the top one full of holes that will allow cold water to shoot out during launch, Musk said.

The idea is that the steel will be able to withstand the intense forces and energy better than concrete, while the pressurized water will help additionally dampen the impact.

Musk likened it to a "massive super strong steel shower head pointing up."

"We're putting down a very strong steel sandwich," he said.

SpaceX was working on the steel plate structure ahead of Starship's inaugural launch, but it wasn't ready in time, Musk said. The company hadn't anticipated how extensive the damage would be to the concrete on the Starship pad.

"If we'd expected to dig a hole, we would not have launched," he said.

Making a flame deflector out of steel and cooling it with water isn't unprecedented, said Wayne Hale, an aerospace consultant and former manager of NASA's space shuttle program.

"The geometry of it, exactly what it looks like, how big is it, how much water flow are they putting through it" — those are all questions that need to be decided, he said.

Due to the proximity of protected wetlands, SpaceX would need to file an application with the Army Corps of Engineers to modify its Starbase launch site with either a steel plate structure or a flame trench. The company hasn't yet applied for any modifications to its permit, according to the corps.

Because Starship is so powerful, the heat transfer on the steel plate would be substantial, and the steel surface might melt during a launch. Refurbishment of the plate probably will be necessary between flights, though flame trenches often need refurbishment too.

"Clearly, they need to do something," Hale said. "A repeat of this last event would not be good."

Grush writes for Bloomberg.

This strike may take bigger economic toll

[**Writers,** from A1]
fall 2007 and dragged on for 100 days.

Writers lost lucrative gigs. So did carpenters and caterers, prop houses and production assistants. Soon a ripple effect set in, and some consumers spent less at shops and restaurants — even car dealerships took a hit.

Although it's possible that the sides may come to an agreement more quickly this time, it's not likely, according to several economic experts, who noted that multiple factors make the current situation more complex — lingering instability from pandemic shutdowns, a seismic shift in the industry in the streaming era and mounting concerns that studios will replace writers with artificial intelligence.

"At the time of the last strike, we were all still making trips to Blockbuster, and Netflix mailed you DVDs," Shannon Sedgwick, director of the Institute for Applied Economics at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., said in a statement. "It was a different industry and a different world then."

A key sticking point in these negotiations is the handling of residuals for streaming projects, said Todd Holmes, an associate professor of entertainment media management at Cal State Northridge, who noted that the amounts from streamers are often lower than what writers got for broadcast TV.

If the strike drags on for three months, Holmes said, it could cost the local economy $3 billion — a prediction he made using estimates of the 2007 fallout and factoring in inflation. But because the current negotiations are more complex, he said, he wouldn't be surprised if they dragged on even longer, outpacing the losses from last time.

JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

AN ADJUNCT professor at USC expects the writers' strike to affect the housing market too. Above, picketers in Studio City on Tuesday.

"It could be even worse than the $3 billion," he said.

After the last strike, the Milken Institute, an economic think tank in Santa Monica, released a report concluding that the stoppage probably had cost 37,700 jobs and $2.1 billion in losses. (The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.'s chief economist had previously estimated the loss would be more than $3 billion.)

Coming in the midst of the 2007 financial crisis, the strike helped accelerate the onset of the recession in California, said Kevin Klowden, lead author of the Milken report.

In an interview, Klowden said it's less likely that the current strike will nudge the state into another recession — the entire country, he noted, was already teetering on the precipice last time around.

Still, the effects of another protracted strike would be vast.

"The caterers, the accountants, the dry cleaners, the construction people, the transport people," he said. "We saw real impacts going up and down the chain."

Including, he said, on real estate.

The last strike overlapped, for a time, with the subprime mortgage crisis that devastated the nation, and once the stoppage began in Hollywood, Klowden said, there was a whole sector of the local economy — including some very high earners — who abruptly stopped buying new homes.

"It's going to have a cascade," he said. "People will put off home purchases even further. People already being stalled by the rise in mortgage rates are going to look and say, 'There is uncertainty here, and I can't afford to move.' "

That could initially add pressure that would lead to increased rent prices, Klowden said, but eventually some people in the industry, especially those not making big salaries, will decide to leave the state altogether.

"We saw an exodus in the last writers' strike," he said, pointing to a trend that, for the first time in many years, recently translated into a net decline in the state's total population.

Sanjay Sharma, an adjunct professor at USC's Marshall School of Business who has expertise in media and entertainment, said he also expects to see the housing market affected.

"Would it result in widespread defaults? The jury is still out on that," he said. "But it also does take a lot of money out of the real estate market immediately."

Given the high inflation rate, he said, the timing of the strike couldn't be worse.

"The economy is slowing and contracting," he said. "Everything is getting more expensive every day. Interest rates are rising."

The particulars of a writers' strike, Sharma added, are unlike stoppages in some other industries.

"These are the storytellers," he said. "Without them there is no medium."

The fact that some of the studios involved are, at their core, technology companies and not entertainment conglomerates adds a new element of unpredictability to these negotiations.

"We now have streamers like Amazon and Netflix at the table," said Sedgwick, the economist at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. "These newcomers may play hardball, which could extend the length of this strike."

MARKET ROUNDUP

Big swings by PayPal, Palantir as earnings data roll out

BY STAN CHOE

Stocks dipped Tuesday on Wall Street after some mixed earnings reports, though indexes remain roughly where they've been stuck for more than a month.

The Standard & Poor's 500 fell 18.95 points, or 0.5%, to 4,119.17. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 56.88 points, or 0.2%, to close at 33,561.81, and the Nasdaq composite fell 77.36 points, or 0.6%, to 12,179.55.

PayPal Holdings fell 12.7% despite reporting better than expected profit and revenue for the latest quarter. Analysts pointed to its forecast for how much profit it expects to wring out of each dollar of revenue, which may have disappointed some investors.

Electric car maker Lucid Group dropped 5.6% after reporting a worse loss than expected for the latest quarter.

Skyworks Solutions sank 5.2% after reporting profit for the first three months of the year that matched forecasts. The semiconductor company's comments about weakness in demand from China for Android phones may have frightened investors.

On the winning side of Wall Street was Palantir Technologies. It soared 23.4% after reporting a stronger profit than expected and saying demand for its new artificial intelligence platform "is without precedent."

So far this earnings reporting season, which is approaching its final stretch, the majority of companies have been topping forecasts for first-quarter results. That's largely because expectations were set quite low amid a slowing economy and high interest rates.

Companies in the S&P 500 are still on track to report a second straight quarter of weaker profits from year-earlier levels.

"Companies have been able to do pretty well," said Margie Patel, senior portfolio manager at Allspring Global Investments.

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	33,561.81	-56.88	-0.17	+1.25
S&P 500	4,119.17	-18.95	-0.46	+7.28
Nasdaq composite	12,179.55	-77.36	-0.63	+16.37
S&P 400	2,444.86	-9.01	-0.37	+0.60
Russell 2000	1,749.68	-4.79	-0.27	-0.66
EuroStoxx 50	4,318.17	-29.14	-0.67	+13.87
Nikkei (Japan)	29,242.82	+292.94	+1.01	+12.07
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	19,867.58	-429.45	-2.12	+0.44

Associated Press

The better-than-feared results have given some support to Wall Street when many other worries are weighing on it.

Key among them is what will happen to the U.S. banking system, which is under stress after three big bank failures since March. Hurt by much higher interest rates, smaller and midsize banks are scrambling to reassure investors and customers that their deposits are stable and that they aren't at risk of a sudden exodus of customers.

After finding some stability in the two prior days, stocks of regional banks under the heaviest scrutiny by Wall Street fell again Tuesday. PacWest Bancorp rose 2.3% after coming back from an earlier loss. Western Alliance Bancorp dropped 1.4% after swinging between losses and gains.

The next big milestone for the market will be Wednesday's report on inflation at the consumer level. Inflation has come down from its peak last summer, but it remains stubbornly high. That has raised uncertainty about what the Federal Reserve's next move will be.

The central bank has already yanked its benchmark interest rate to a range of 5% to 5.25%, up from virtually zero early last year.

Many investors are preparing for a recession to hit later this year because of much higher rates, as well as the potential for banks to pull back on lending because of their industry's troubles.

"It seems that although they have more data and information than anybody, the Fed seems myopically focused on the inflation rate and unemployment rate rather than looking at the big picture," Allspring's Patel said. "What does the person on the street see? I think they see a lot more things to be concerned about than the Fed."

She is hopeful that stocks can have positive returns this year, but she's quick to say that's not an expectation.

"I want to be optimistic, but when you look at the facts, you have to temper that quite a bit," she said.

Worries about a recession and expectations for possible rate cuts by the Fed have caused yields to pull back since early March.

Looming over it all is a June 1 deadline. That's when the U.S. government could potentially run out of cash to pay its bills unless Congress allows it to borrow more. The general expectation is that Congress will come to a deal before that deadline because the alternative would be widespread damage to the economy and financial markets.

But each day that passes without a deal raises concerns a bit more.

Worries about weakening demand sent crude oil slipping. Stocks also dropped in Shanghai, down 2.1%, after a report showed that imports to China slumped sharply last month.

In the bond market, the 10-year Treasury yield rose to 3.52% from 3.51% late Monday. The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more on expectations for the Fed, rose to 4.02% from 4.00%.

Choe writes for the Associated Press.

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EDITORIAL

RAUL ROA Los Angeles Times

IMMIGRANTS FROM as far away as India and Africa wait to be processed by Customs and Border Protection officers in Somerton, Ariz., on May 5.

U.S. relies on same failed immigration policies

Instead of addressing root causes and making it easier to apply for asylum, the post-Title 42 plan is to scare migrants away?

THE BORDER management strategy known as Title 42 has allowed the United States to expel asylum-seeking migrants en masse for the past three years using a public health pretext. It's not surprising, then, that many state and federal lawmakers have been trying to hold onto the Trump-era order for dear life. After all, Title 42 comes straight from the playbook that Republican and Democratic policymakers have relied on for decades. Operation Hold the Line in 1993, Operation Gatekeeper in 1994 (both of which fortified the border in certain areas) and Title 42 were designed to make it harder, if not impossible, for migrants to enter the U.S.

None of these policies have stopped desperate people fleeing countries ravaged by violence or authoritarian regimes from trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. Migrants brave jungles teeming with bandits, travel atop dangerous trains and walk through scorching deserts for the opportunity to live and work without fear. And they'll continue to do so even after Title 42 ends Thursday, when the COVID-19 pandemic emergency is lifted.

That's because the mishmash of policies that the Biden administration will use to replace Title 42 relies on the same concept of trying to scare migrants from arriving at the border, rather than addressing the root cause of migration.

Severely limiting the option to apply for asylum has resulted in tens of thousands of migrants stranded on the Mexican side of the border in Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana, often in squalid or unsafe conditions and subject to crime and violence. Many observers expect that when Title 42 lifts, migrants will rush to the border with the mistaken idea that restrictions have been dropped, overwhelming Border Patrol officials. The Biden administration is sending 1,500 active-duty National Guard soldiers to help monitor the border. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said he is deploying a "tactical border force" to secure the crossing.

In recent months, Biden has enacted policies offering other ways for people to apply for asylum. Migrants at the border will continue to be allowed to apply for asylum via an app that has had operational problems, requiring people to spend weeks trying to make an appointment. The U.S. is setting up asylum processing centers in other countries, starting with Colombia and Guatemala. Migrants can also apply from their native countries for U.S. residents to sponsor them. Those who arrive without using any of these options run the risk of being deported to their home countries. Migrants from countries that do not have diplomatic relations with the U.S., such as Venezuela and Cuba, will be sent to Mexico.

These policies are inadequate, however, because they do not offer a solution that might address the reasons that compel people to seek asylum. Nor do they acknowledge that the U.S. economy has for decades relied on cheap labor by undocumented immigrants.

Title 42 proved to be a curse for the Biden administration, which first sought to end it last year but was forced to keep it in place after a legal challenge from Republicans.

Migrant advocates had hoped Biden would be the leader who would finally push for more humane and sensible immigration policies. The immigration system has been broken for years due to a dysfunctional and deeply divided Congress that can't agree on appropriate legislation to deal with the millions of undocumented immigrants living in the U.S., immigration and asylum case backlogs or even legislation to protect those who were brought to the country illegally when they were young.

Much of the blame falls on Republican legislators for their anti-immigrant rhetoric as they play to a base that does not want to acknowledge the role that migrants play in our economy. But Democrats share some blame for failing to adopt reform measures when they had control of Congress. Instead, politicians rely on ineffective measures to scare migrants into staying away or use them as political pawns. Until Congress and the president can find a way to reach consensus on immigration reform, the crisis at our borders will only continue to get worse.

After all he's done, Trump gets a CNN town hall?

Donald Trump is an abnormal candidate who should not be normalized with free airtime and a Q&A with voters.

JACKIE CALMES

HERE WE GO AGAIN?

Count me as conflicted, skeptical and even a tad outraged that CNN is giving Donald Trump an hour of prime time Wednesday, for a so-called town hall in New Hampshire, the first state scheduled to hold a Republican presidential primary next year.

This ratings grab by the ratings-challenged network comes as CNN's new management is seeking to rebrand the cable mainstay as a down-the-middle news source that (laudably) is more welcoming to Republicans. That backstory, together with the general O.J.-like hyper-coverage of Trump's recent travel from Mar-a-Lago to Manhattan to be criminally arraigned in a hush money case, suggests little reason to believe that CNN or the media in general have learned from their excesses covering Trump in the 2016 presidential campaign — mistakes that CNN's former president subsequently conceded.

Back then, candidate Trump received an estimated $5 billion in free media, more than for the other major Democratic and Republican candidates combined, helping to propel him into the presidency.

I realize Trump is newsworthy: He's far and away the Republican front-runner, to the shame of his party. Attention must be paid.

Yet he's also a disgraced former president, wannabe autocrat, sexual predator and unremorseful seditionist, the first ever to deny his electoral defeat and to incite an insurrection. He faces possible criminal indictment for those actions, perhaps soon, as well as for allegedly conspiring to make off with boxes of government documents, including highly classified ones, when he finally left the White House.

He's been booked and fingerprinted for the preelection payoffs to both a porn star and a Playboy model. And on Tuesday, a unanimous Manhattan jury found Trump liable for sexually abusing and defaming E. Jean Carroll, who alleged Trump raped her years ago; her testimony and others' during the trial brought to life Trump's infamous claim that, as a star, he could just grab women's genitals with impunity.

In short, this is an abnormal candidate who must not be normalized on national television in some run-of-the-mill Q&A with voters. A rule of thumb: If his lips are moving, he's lying.

So a live town hall is not an ideal format for handling Trump. CNN moderator Kaitlan Collins, who covered Trump as president, will have the immense challenge of fact-checking him in real time as he responds to the selected Republican and independent voters — some of whom are presumably friendly to the former president — as well as putting some hard questions of her own to Trump.

Such as: How could you take the oath of office to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States" when you called for its "termination" to overturn the 2020 election, and did nothing but watch television as the mob sacked the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021?

Or: How can you claim to support law enforcement when you repeatedly disparage the police who protected the Capitol, even calling one a "murderer," and when you promise, if reelected, to pardon some of those responsible for the riots that injured more than 100 officers and were tied to the later deaths of five?

And: Why in the world would you double down on your claim in the "Access Hollywood" tape and testify in your deposition in the Carroll that "stars" like yourself have been able to "grab women by the pussy" for a million years?

A CNN spokesperson, responding to critics of the planned town hall, acknowledged Trump's "unique circumstances." That's doublespeak regarding a mendacious, twice-impeached, indicted and criminally targeted candidate, and it is hardly reassuring. But as David Zaslav, CEO of CNN's parent company, WarnerBros. Discovery, told CNBC Friday, "He's the Republican front-runner. He has to be on."

But does he have to be on now, by himself, in a town hall format? The New Hampshire primary, after all, is still nine months away.

> CNN nodded to Trump's 'unique circumstances.' That's doublespeak when we're talking about an indicted, mendacious, twice-impeached candidate.

Why was he the first choice for what CNN says will be many such candidate town halls? What about the other Republicans who've announced bids yet remain all but ignored, including former United Nations ambassador and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley; former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson and several longshots, among them California's 2021 gubernatorial-race loser, Larry Elder?

For CNN's answers, see above: Ratings.

For Trump, this is a win-win proposition. As one of his advisors told Vanity Fair about his agreement to appear on CNN, "Going outside the traditional Republican 'comfort zone' was a key to President Trump's success in 2016." Trump's rivals, according to the advisor, "are afraid to do anything other than Fox News." And if Trump stumbles, he can just heap more blame on "fake news" — mainstream media, "the enemy of the people."

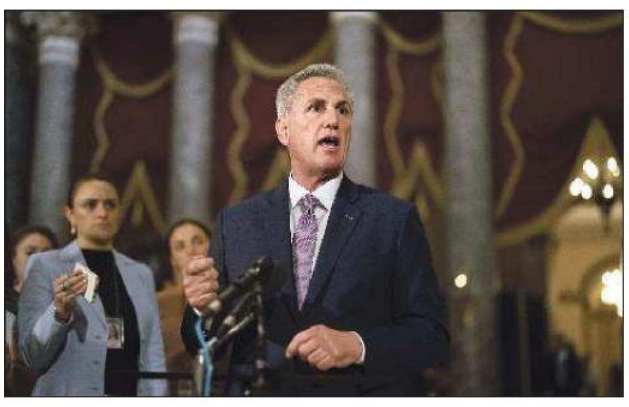
As for CNN, let's hope it passes the test it has set for itself: "Ask tough questions, follow up and hold him accountable to give voters the information they need," as the network spokesperson put it. Even more, let's hope it provides an example for the rest of us in the media.

I don't have all the answers, nor do many of my journalism compatriots, about how to cover an emerging campaign like none before, a democratic process that has, at its center, a candidate who has tried to blow up democracy and might do so again.

Hope aside, I doubt that CNN does either.

@jackiekcalmes

LETTERS



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE Associated Press

SPEAKER Kevin McCarthy and House Republicans so far have refused to lift the debt limit.

A painful debt dispute

Re: "A riskier debt ceiling hostage standoff," May 7

I almost choked on my breakfast when I read in Doyle McManus' column that "solving the impasse may depend on McCarthy's wisdom and courage, two commodities that have not been reliably measured."

McCarthy is the guy who handed over security video of Jan. 6 to Tucker Carlson. This is the guy who stated, "President Trump won this election. So everyone who's listening, do not be quiet. We cannot allow this to happen before our very eyes." He's the guy who blamed Trump for the Jan. 6 insurrection and then walked it back. Wisdom and courage? Nobody should expect to see anything resembling those two virtues from Kevin McCarthy, let alone his merry band of MAGA obstructionists.

BILL WAXMAN
Simi Valley

::

I strongly concur with the author's apprehension about the debt ceiling. I am concerned that both House leadership and Republican senators are exploiting our nation's well-being to engage in partisan politics, seeking substantial reductions in essential programs such as education, food assistance and housing.

Current inflationary trends are exacerbating financial strain on Americans. Wages remain unresponsive to escalating costs. Countless individuals are already enduring significant hardships. I harbor profound fears about the potential burden on our overwhelmed social systems.

SARAH MILLER
University City, Mo.

::

If Republicans force a debt ceiling standoff based on requiring deficit reduction by social safety net spending cuts, perhaps Democrats should consider a demand for the suspension of the billionaire tax-relief signed by Trump. It doesn't seem like an equal trade though: penalizing many millions of those in genuine need to make the 0.1% pay a fair share for deficit reduction.

NICK CASKEY
Santa Ana

'Mansion tax' takes effect

Re: "L.A.'s 'mansion tax' is hit by drop in sales," May 8

Developers are already confronted with lengthy entitlement processes, affordability requirements, rising construction costs and skyrocketing interest rates. A 5%-plus tax on sale prices will wipe out much of builders' profit potential, further reducing the incentive to add badly needed rental housing.

While it might feel good to soak the uber-wealthy, there are unintended consequences.

JAMES MADDOX
Los Angeles

::

The ULA mansion tax also includes commercial and apartment buildings, which is where the biggest unintended consequences lie. Developers who build apartments and mixed-use projects in Los Angeles are subject to inclusionary zoning requirements to offer a percentage of low-income units in their projects. With the addition of an up to 5.5% tax, their projects no longer make financial sense. One more example of this city shooting itself in the foot.

RICHARD KLUG
Los Angeles

Sushi's delights — and perils

Re: "L.A. dreams of sushi," May 7

Your article on Sakae Sushi brought back many fond memories. When I was growing up in Gardena in the 1960s and '70s, their delicious platters were a mainstay at potlucks and buffets. I'm happy to see that the restaurant is still thriving and wish them many more years of success.

SARA BORETZ
Upland

::

Thanks to Betty Hallock for covering Yoko Hasebe's work bringing plant-based sushi to L.A., and to Jean Trinh for her article on bluefin tuna. Both articles dealt with our culpability in the overfishing and resultant low numbers of fish species.

As we watch marine ecosystems be depleted and destroyed, we will need to change our behaviors. The choice of plant-based foods is daily becoming more available and is a must to address these concerns.

ELAINE LIVESEY-FASSEL
Los Angeles

HOW TO WRITE TO US

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OP-ED

No denying E. Jean Carroll now

Trump is liable for sexual abuse and defamation, at last

ROBIN ABCARIAN

WELL, WELL, WELL.

The Manhattan civil jury that found Donald Trump liable for sexually abusing and defaming former advice columnist E. Jean Carroll moved on the former president like — well, as he would say — "a bitch," finding against him after less than three hours of deliberation Tuesday.

Trump had not raped Carroll, the federal jury decided, but the assault was real, and he had injured her, acted with malice when he called her a liar, and damaged her reputation in the process. The jury has ordered Trump to pay Carroll about $5 million.

We can take a couple of lessons from Carroll's victory and Trump's defeat.

First, obituaries for the #MeToo movement and the positive cultural changes it has wrought are premature. The jury may not have assigned to Trump the technical crime of rape, but it believed Carroll when she testified that he pushed her against a dressing room wall, pulled down her pantyhose and thrust his fingers into her.

Second, it turns out that narcissism can be its own punishment.

In a deposition taken last year, a surly Trump, who wore face makeup that was an even harsher shade of orange than usual, virtually sealed his own legal fate.

In a videotape shown to the jury, he accused Carroll's attorney of being "a political operative" and "a disgrace" and, his favorite insult, "not my type."

Roberta Kaplan took it all in stride, asking whether he really believed — as he boasted to Billy Bush in 2005 — that stars can grab women's genitals? Remember, when that tape became public during his first presidential campaign, he first claimed never to have said such a thing, then claimed he was indulging in "locker room talk."

Apparently, he was telling the truth all along.

"Historically," Trump replied, "that's true with stars. If you look over the last million years, that's largely true, unfortunately — or fortunately." (*Fortunately?*)

Then Kaplan asked whether Trump considered himself a star.

"Yeah," he replied.

It was pretty obvious to anyone keeping track that what Trump did to Carroll was pretty much what he said he did to women whenever he felt like it. And his claim that Carroll was not his type was blatantly disproved when he misidentified a photo of her as his ex-wife Marla Maples.

There's a poetic justice to Trump's own vile words coming back to haunt him.

And something extremely reassuring about the fact that the New York law meant to provide redress to victims of long-ago sexual assaults accomplished exactly that.

There was no eyewitness — when is there ever an eyewitness in a sexual assault case? — but Carroll's attorney was able to call 10 witnesses, two of whom testified that she told them contemporaneously of the traumatic event, and two of whom testified that Trump had sexually assaulted them too, using a similar MO.

Thanks to New York's Adult Survivors Act, which temporarily lifted the statute of limitations on sexual assault, Carroll was able to accuse Trump in court of raping her in the dressing room of the upscale Manhattan specialty store Bergdorf Goodman on what she thinks was a Thursday evening in the spring of 1996.

Trump's attorney tried to exploit her lack of certainty about the date of the assault. How can a man provide an alibi if he doesn't even know what day he was alleged to have brutalized a woman? In a criminal trial, this missing piece of information probably would have been an insurmountable obstacle for a prosecutor.

But this was a civil trial.

Carroll did not have to prove her case beyond a reasonable doubt. All she had to do was persuade the nine-person jury — six male and three female jurors — that it was more likely than not that Trump had assaulted her. On the defamation charge, she had to meet a "clear and convincing" standard. The speedy verdict indicates she more than met the burden of proof.

I know from personal experience that traumatic events can lodge in your soul and change the course of your life even if you don't remember exactly when they happened. Shortly after I graduated from college, a jilted boyfriend of mine came to my apartment late one night and tried to strangle me. The Berkeley police who responded did not even file a report. Did it happen in 1978 or 1979? I have no idea.

I have long since given up hope that any of the heinous things Trump has done or said — including inciting the deadly Jan. 6 Capitol riot and haranguing Georgia elections officials to fraudulently overturn President Biden's 2020 victory in their state — will have any effect on his legions of supporters. Despite the shame of the outcome of this case for Trump, I doubt his status as the 2024 MAGA Republican presidential front-runner will change much if at all. His immediately response? "WITCH HUNT," as usual.

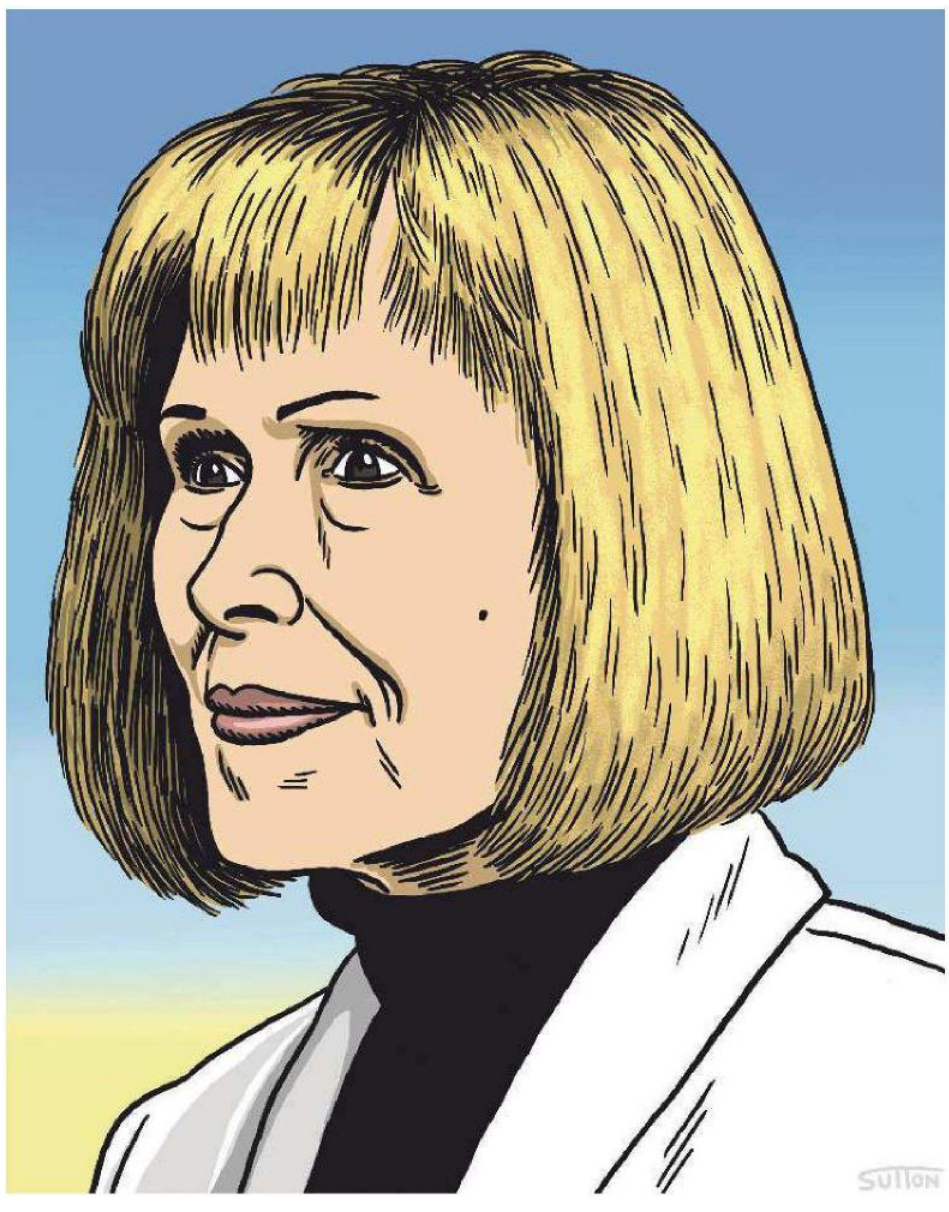


Illustration by WARD SUTTON

But I do want to dwell for a moment on E. Jean Carroll's courage, and also her dignity and composure on the witness stand as she was hectored by Trump's attorney about why she never screamed while the future president was attacking her.

Her response, in my view, provided the truest and most memorable line of the trial: "I'm telling you, he raped me whether I screamed or not."

@robinkabcarian

A case built on the abhorrent character of the defendant

The writer's successful lawsuit demonstrated that the former president is a bully, a coward and a predator.

HARRY LITMAN

A FEDERAL JURY found Donald Trump liable for sexually abusing and defaming the writer E. Jean Carroll on Tuesday after less than three hours of deliberation, delivering a quick and devastating verdict on the conduct and character of the former president.

The plaintiff showed remarkable courage and credibility over the course of three days of draining testimony, especially under cross-examination. Trump attorney Joe Tacopina scored few points and lost many more in his overbearing and overlong attack on Carroll.

But as much as Carroll's heroism, it was Trump's extraordinary villainy that sealed his fate.

Consider the facts of the case apart from the involvement of a former president of the United States: A woman meets a man in a department store, engages in flirtatious banter with him and follows him into a dressing room, where he allegedly assaults her. She doesn't report the episode for 30 years, and neither do her friends who ultimately show up to testify that she told them about it decades earlier.

Such a case sounds like an uphill battle. Most lawyers would shy away from bringing it based on the strong possibility of a verdict for the defense.

What made the difference in this case is the character of the defendant and the plaintiff's success in demonstrating it to the jury. Over eight days of testimony, Carroll showed Trump to be a bully, a coward and a predator.

Trump's instinct as a bully is to humiliate and vilify his critics. Rather than simply deny Carroll's allegations, he insisted on demeaning the case as a "scam" and Carroll as a "wack job" who was "mentally sick." His truly Trumpian coup de grace was that the plaintiff was not his "type" and that there was "no way I would ever be attracted to her," a gratuitously vicious slur that came back to haunt him when he confused Carroll with his ex-wife Marla Maples in a generally disastrous deposition.

Moreover, notwithstanding his repeated swashbuckling claims that he wanted to defend himself in court, Trump revealed his cowardice by turning tail and failing to do so. People with trial experience (including me) predicted as much: Trump's long record of lies would have ensured a bloodbath of a cross-examination and possibly exposure to multiple counts of perjury. Trump, who has spent most of the last few years desperately trying to avoid consequences for his conduct, has a well-known tendency to talk big and then fold.

Worse, Trump's refusal even to show up in court almost certainly alienated the jury and allowed Carroll's counsel to have a field day in closing arguments.

"He never looked you in the eye and denied raping Ms. Carroll," Carroll attorney Michael Ferrara told the jury. "You should draw the conclusion that that's because he did it."

Trump's pugnacious lawyer had no viable response to this line of argument.

Most damningly, the evidence revealed Trump to be a sexual predator. The federal rules of evidence helped here, permitting the former president to be judged for his propensity to assault women based on his prior similar behavior.

The rules in most cases prohibit the introduction of prior bad acts to suggest that a defendant did it before so you can bet he did it this time. Such a line of argument goes against our general social and legal commitment to judge a defendant based on conduct rather than character.

But Congress has authorized such evidence in cases of sexual assault. U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan accordingly instructed the jury that evidence that Trump previously engaged in sexual assault could be considered as to his tendency to do so again.

The jury was therefore able to consider the testimony of two of Trump's other alleged victims, Jessica Leeds and Natasha Stoynoff, who had no conceivable reason to make up their stories, and conclude that if he did it to them he probably did it to Carroll.

Perhaps the most memorable and damaging evidence of Trump's propensity for sexual predation consisted of his own words on the infamous "Access Hollywood" tape: "I don't even wait. And when you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab 'em by the pussy." As Carroll's lawyer argued, this was more evidence of the former president's abhorrent character: Trump had revealed "in his very own words how he treats women."

The damning verdict will of course be ignored by the fraction of the electorate that is willing to overlook or ignore every one of Trump's transgressions no matter how grave. But for the rest of us, the verdict stands for far more than his misconduct on one afternoon in 1996. It's a judgment of a character that is by leaps and bounds more loathsome than that of any other figure to occupy the presidency.

HARRY LITMAN is the host of the "Talking Feds" podcast. @harrylitman

Why Biden's really bad approval ratings make no difference

Midterm results were completely divorced from his popularity. Such polls are an outmoded tool.

By Kurt Bardella

OVER THE weekend, a new Washington Post-ABC News poll showed President Biden's approval rating at 36% and had him down 7 percentage points in a head-to-head matchup with Donald Trump. Right on cue, the Washington media establishment went into overdrive, characterizing the poll numbers as "bleak" and "brutal."

It wasn't that long ago that similar assessments were made for the Democrats in the run-up to the midterm elections. "Joe Biden's poll numbers are in a very bad place for Democrats," CNN pronounced in late October. "How well will Biden's low approval explain the midterm results?" was a headline that appeared in the Washington Post on election day.

Of course, the conventional political analysis was completely wrong about the midterm elections. Democrats ultimately gained ground in the Senate and, by the narrowest of margins, lost the majority in the House. The results were a far cry from Republicans flipping 60 House seats as they had been crowing about.

It turns out, there was absolutely zero correlation between job approval polls on Biden and the outcome of the midterm elections. So why in the world is the political media so quick to jump right back on the polling bandwagon six months later?

The reality is, in this day and age, the way we interpret polls has got to change. There needs to be a recognition that, realistically speaking, the days of a president enjoying approval ratings above 50% are effectively over. The Republican Party has withdrawn from the democratic experiment, choosing instead to rally behind insurrectionists and white nationalists. On what planet would any of those people "approve" of a Democratic administration under any scenario? They don't even think he was legitimately elected president. (He was).

Disinformation has contaminated the town square. Thoughtful debates and honest disagreements have been replaced by disingenuous bomb throwers and wack job conspiracy theorists. Real analysis has been abandoned in favor of false equivalencies. Facts are being drained out of our political discourse. The result is a large share of the electorate that's uninformed or, worse, actually persuaded that lies are truth.

Yet somehow, the elite media are still giving their polls the same credence they did before Trump and the era of misinformation began. You cannot accurately evaluate today's political figures with the same tools and methodologies you used a decade ago.

Those very tools told us there was no way Trump could become president in the first place; they were wrong. The pundit class left Biden's campaign for dead in early 2020, yet he was just getting started. Those same polls told us a massive red wave was going to hit the country in November 2022; it didn't.

Given this track record, is it really surprising that trust in media remains at an all-time low? Half of Americans believe the media deliberately misleads them and considering how the press treats polls, it's not hard to understand why.

The 2024 presidential election is sure to be overrun with misinformation. There couldn't be a more important time for the press to play a central role in deciphering what is real and what is not, to filter what is important and what is just noise.

Getting it right has never been more important because with every election cycle the press gets wrong, its credibility declines with the American people. And that diminished credibility coincides with the rise in disinformation and the empowerment of bad and dishonest actors.

We simply don't live in a world where 55% or 60% of this country is going to agree on a political figure's job approval. The media and their polls need to acknowledge that reality, instead of using this obsolete measurement to drive news cycles and fuel cable TV segments. This pointless exercise will only injure the media's sagging reputation and make it easier for the purveyors of misinformation to fill the vacuum.

KURT BARDELLA is a contributing writer to Opinion. He is a Democratic strategist and a former senior advisor for Republicans on the House Oversight Committee. @KurtBardella

Blooms: Everything, everywhere all at once

[**Blooms,** from A1]
realize — the bulbs are there. They're just waiting to bloom. Nature will take care of itself."

Everything is growing everywhere all at once in Southern California.

The lush greenery in city parks, the mustard flowers electrifying the hillsides, the burst of unexpected blossoms from carefully tended gardens and sidewalk cracks alike — all of it is thanks to an ideal balance of precipitation and temperature that has catalyzed plant growth across the state.

Those 31 atmospheric rivers delivered steady, nourishing rainfall from October to March. Regional temperatures remained moderate as well, without any sudden early-spring heat waves to kill off fragile baby plants.

The combination of those two factors has produced "an absolutely glorious spring," one that has been more vibrantly colorful for longer than any in recent memory, said Jeremy Yoder, a Cal State Northridge biologist.

Roses have thorns, and this superbloom has briars too. *All* plants are thriving in these conditions, from native wildflowers to invasive weeds.

The growth has highlighted truths about our ecosystem that were easier to ignore in drier years: A changing climate has upended bloom schedules, non-native plants have altered the landscape, and many seemingly fallow fields are in fact just beds of dormant life waiting for the right time to bloom.

There's a lot to appreciate about the growth around us. There's a lot to learn from it, too.

Even before industrialization and the climate change that resulted from human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, rainfall in Southern California varied considerably year to year, Yoder said. As a result, the region's native wildflowers evolved to withstand periods of drought.

For a native annual like our state flower, the California poppy, "their whole life cycle is based on flowering quickly and making seeds and getting those seeds into what we call the seed bank in the soil," he said. "They can hang out there until the next good year," which could be next season or the next decade. "Then they get a good rain and a cold winter to prime them beforehand, and they go crazy."

In periods of prolonged drought like we've experienced the last few years, many annual plants will allow only a selection of their seeds to flower. It's an evolutionary strategy that lets plants play the long game: A few seeds from the bank are deputized to flower and drop more seeds, while the rest hold off on entering the vulnerable baby plant stage until conditions are more promising.

A bumper year like this one is both a visual feast and a down payment on future blooms. Today's wildflowers will make further deposits into the seed bank that can survive in the soil for years until the right conditions come along — provided no one plows them under to build a big-box store or put up a parking lot.

"You can go for a walk and under your feet are millions of seeds just sitting there in the seed bank. That potential for beauty in a landscape that is otherwise essentially barren in a non-good year is so freaking cool," said Nick Jensen, director of the conservation program at the California Native Plant Society. "That is like the coolest thing. It still blows my mind, that that potential is there."

If you take away nothing else from this season's superbloom, let it be this: Do not confuse a dry brown hillside or field for a lifeless wasteland. It may be a nursery of wildflowers just waiting for the right time to flourish.

The inverse is also true. A brilliantly colored hillside doesn't necessarily indicate a thriving, healthy ecosystem at work.

The vivid green grass on the foothills, the pops of fuchsia blossoms in thickets of coastal ice plant, the yellow flowers of black mustard: None of it is native to Southern California. A lot of it is also invasive, strong-arming (strong-rooting?) resources away from more beneficial native plants and disrupting the harmony of the ecosystem.

This isn't a recent development. Those grasses that turn the hills green after a wet winter were brought here by the Spanish as early as the 18th century to serve as cattle feed. Black mustard arrived around the same time, planted — according to some accounts — along El Camino Real at the order of Spanish missionaries who wanted to highlight their route in gold.

"It's been this 300-year-long process of colonizing this land, from both Native people and native plants," said Jason Wise, an environmental educator in Los Angeles.

The result is a landscape that may be aesthetically pleasing from some angles, but that is fundamentally less resilient in the face of a changing climate.

Southern California's indigenous plants have evolved to be more fire-resistant. The Tongva, Tataviam, Chumash and other Native people who originally inhabited this land understood that fact and incorporated it into their land management practices through controlled burns that cleared away excess growth and catalyzed seed release.

In contrast, many invasive species ignite easily when an unexpected source of fire is introduced — be it lightning, a cigarette butt or a downed power line — and can quickly escalate into an out-of-control wildfire. Land managers and conservationists are worried that will happen this summer when those thickets of black mustard dry out.

"Whenever the season does turn to drier conditions and that vegetation is no longer as green, it's going to be a bigger fuel supply for burning," Yoder said.

Multiple things can be true at once. There is a complicated story behind many of this spring's dazzling flowers. Yet they still catch our eye and lift our spirits because they are pretty — and there's a lot to be said for being able to appreciate the beauty in life wherever you happen to find it.

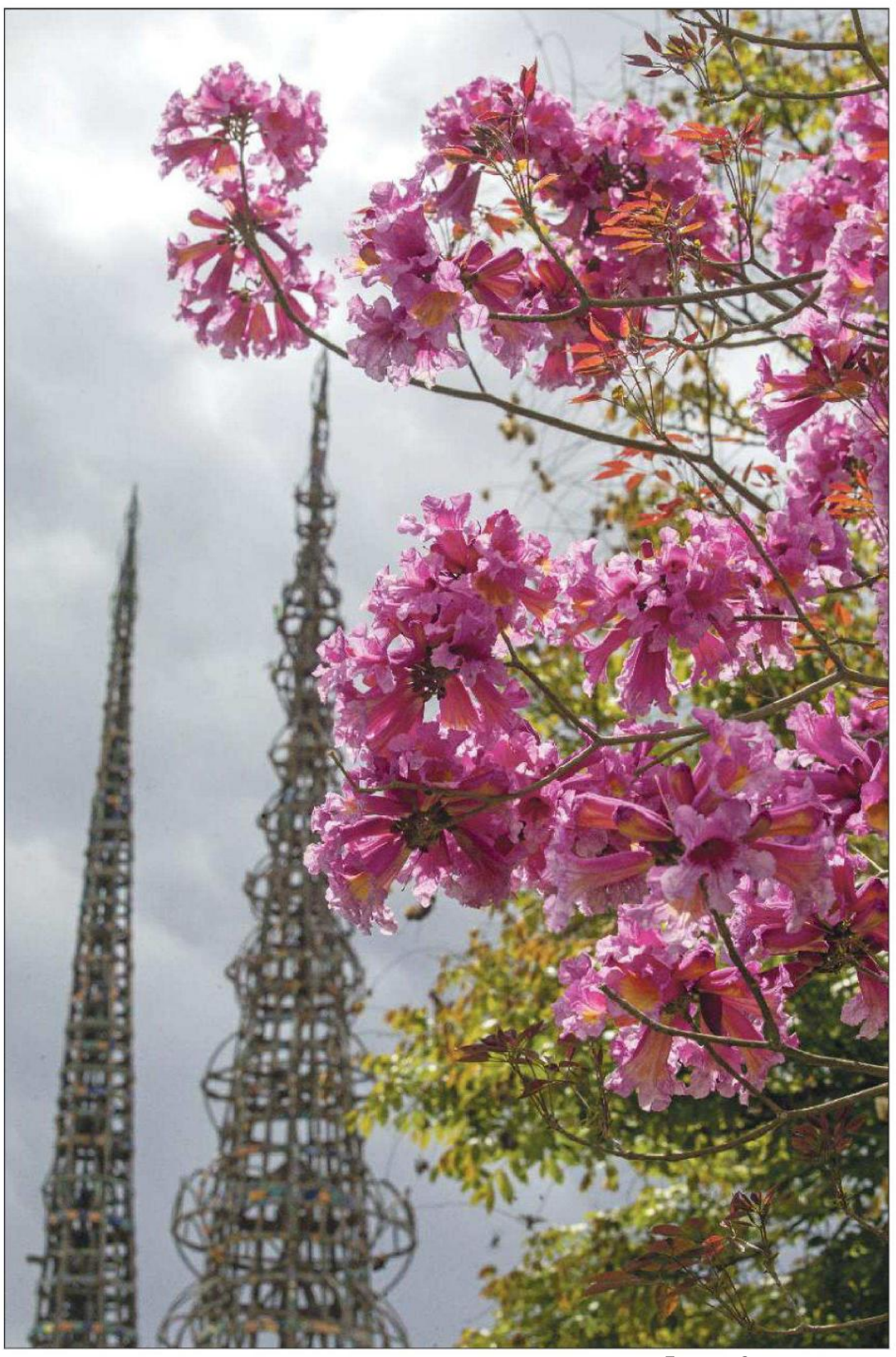
Not everyone gets the opportunity to drive out to one of the relatively few areas where wildflowers are protected and observe native plants in all their splendor. There are a lot of places in Southern California where flowering weeds and ornamental shrubbery spilling over the freeway retaining wall are the most accessible plants around. The feeling of joy they evoke still counts.

When Wise takes groups of children on nature hikes and they see plants taller than they are, they don't bother to ask if they're invasive before exclaiming with joy. Wise says he tries not to crush that sense of wonder. Instead, he leans into it.

"I'll say, 'Yeah, it's amazing how big these got. All the rain made them huge! Here's where this plant comes from. And do we see what it's doing to the other plants around it? Those ones have some pretty flowers too, but they're kind of in the shade now. What do you think that plant thinks?' " he said. "Just providing more things to think about, some extra layers, without just being like, 'No, that's bad, don't like that flower.' That's the nuance of a real-life conversation."

This season's flowers might leave behind more than the seeds of future blooms. Long after they're gone, they may inspire a renewed desire to protect the land's ability to surprise and delight us the way it has this year. What a legacy that would be.

"The seed bank is a really very, very precious thing, mysterious as it is. All the seeds of all of these gorgeous flowers we see were there, and no one could have told," said botanist Lucinda McDade, director of the California Botanic Garden in Claremont. "Plants are amazing, I'm telling you."



FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

A PINK TRUMPET tree near the Watts Towers. Seemingly barren fields can be beds of dormant life waiting for the right time to bloom. "Plants are amazing," a botanist said in awe.

Standoff over debt ceiling tests McCarthy's leadership

[**Debt limit,** from A1]
tionary spending cuts. Biden and Democrats say they won't negotiate on budget cuts unless Congress agrees to increase the legal borrowing limit without conditions — a once routine practice that has become more acrimonious amid a growing partisan divide in Congress.

Biden delivered remarks and took questions from a small group of reporters following the meeting, saying he was "absolutely certain" the U.S. would not default on its debt obligations.

"I made clear during our meeting that default is not an option," he said.

The president said he and congressional leaders would reconvene on Friday. White House and congressional aides will continue to meet throughout the week, he added.

Biden described the tenor of the talks as "very measured and low-key," adding that "occasionally there would be a little bit of an assertion that maybe was a little over the top from the speaker."

The meeting marked perhaps the biggest test yet for McCarthy, who needs to balance the urgency of raising the debt limit with satisfying far-right Republicans who could end his speakership.

The Bakersfield Republican clinched the gavel in January by caving to the hard-line faction of his party, striking a bargain that allows a single member to force a vote to oust him as speaker. Any deal he negotiates with the White House or the Senate would require convincing that same group of far-right House members.

McCarthy's critics say that his deal with the right wing of his party weakened his position. But the speaker has defied those expectations in recent weeks, unifying Republicans to pass a bill to raise the debt ceiling by $1.5 trillion or for just one year — whichever comes first — while also capping future spending growth at 1% a year over the next decade. Such a bill would set up yet another fiscal showdown months before the 2024 presidential election.

The legislation, which would cut future deficits by $4.5 trillion, also takes aim at Democratic priorities.

The bill would add new work requirements for Medicaid recipients and others who receive federal assistance, end Biden's student loan debt forgiveness program, claw back unspent COVID-19 funds and repeal parts of the White House climate agenda. Though the bill has no chance of passing a Democratic-controlled Senate or securing Biden's signature, it strengthens McCarthy's hand as he looks to hash out a deal with a so-far uncompromising administration.

McCarthy told reporters that he asked Biden about potential spending cuts and that the president didn't give him any. Biden later said that he told congressional leaders he was "prepared to begin a separate discussion about his budget, spending priorities — but not under the threat of default."

Fabian Núñez, a Democrat and former speaker of the California Assembly who has negotiated budgets with McCarthy, describes the Republican's tactics as "three-dimensional," saying the speaker is staking out a position that considers the entire GOP conference instead of just his right flank.

"Kevin has never been do-or-die in the way he approaches negotiations," Núñez said. "He's usually at his best when he's under the gun."

But so far McCarthy's methods have failed to move Biden, whose own budget proposes reducing the deficit by $3 trillion over the next decade by increasing taxes on the wealthy and corporations and allowing the government to negotiate drug prices in order to reduce healthcare spending.

Biden suggested McCarthy was beholden to an "extreme" faction of his party, but added, "I trust Kevin will try to do what he says."

The president, who announced his reelection bid in April, has used the fight over the debit limit to sharpen his campaign rhetoric, painting Republicans' proposed cuts as damaging to the American middle class. The White House has circulated several memos arguing that the GOP bill would even slash stated Republican priorities including policing, anti-drug-trafficking efforts and services for veterans

Before Biden sat down with congressional leaders, the White House had already announced that he would travel to a Hudson River Valley congressional district on Wednesday to give a speech on how the GOP bill would include cuts to veterans' healthcare visits, school staffing and a food program for homebound seniors. The district, which Biden won in 2020, is home to Rep. Mike Lawler, a vulnerable Republican who will likely have to win reelection if the GOP is to have any hope of expanding its five-seat majority in the House next year.

Instead of focusing his attention on McCarthy, Biden has leaned on McConnell, with whom he cut deals for the Obama administration during the 2013 fiscal cliff crisis, the debt-ceiling standoff in 2011 and the 2010 fight over extending Bush-era tax cuts. But McConnell insists he's sitting this one out.

Rohit Kumar, McConnell's chief negotiator during the 2011 talks, said the minority leader has made the calculus that intervening would not yield the same response in the House as a Biden-McCarthy deal.

"If he thought that a deal that he would strike with President Biden would have a reasonable chance of becoming law, then he might be more willing to step into that role," said Kumar, who is now co-leader for national tax services for the accounting firm PwC.

Much of Biden's thinking is shaped by the 2011 debt crisis, when he served as President Obama's vice president and the administration agreed to deep cuts that avoided a default but ultimately led to a downgrade of the nation's credit rating for the first time.

Biden said he wouldn't rule out a short-term extension of the debt limit, which would punt the deadline to raise the borrowing cap to align with annual talks over government funding — which will run out on Sept. 30. But McCarthy dismissed the idea earlier on Tuesday.

The president also said he had investigated invoking the 14th Amendment, which states that the validity of the public debt shall not be questioned, as a means of unilaterally working around the disagreement. But the problem, he added, is that the government would have to defend that claim in court, and he didn't see litigation as a viable solution.

But time is short. Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen has warned that the U.S. could be unable to pay its bills for the first time ever as soon as June 1. An analysis released Tuesday by the Washington-based Bipartisan Policy Center projects that between early June and early August, the U.S. will not be able to meet its obligations as a borrower, supporting Yellen's forecast.

The bond market has already reacted to fears that the U.S. may default. Short-term bond prices have steadily declined since late April.

After Biden and McCarthy met Tuesday, Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, cited a 10% probability that the U.S. will breach the debt ceiling.

"Even a lengthy standoff no longer has a zero probability," he said. "What once seemed unimaginable now seems a real threat."

The two sides still have ample time to negotiate, even as Biden is set to travel abroad for a weeklong trip to Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia next week, Kumar said. He recalled his own experience in 2011, when "there wasn't even a prospect of an agreement" just 72 hours before the deadline.

"Unfortunately, because of the history of this issue, you can't sort of know with confidence that no deal is going to be struck and no breakthrough is going to be reached in like the last couple of days," he said.

Biden said "it's possible" that he'll skip the foreign trip, but not likely.

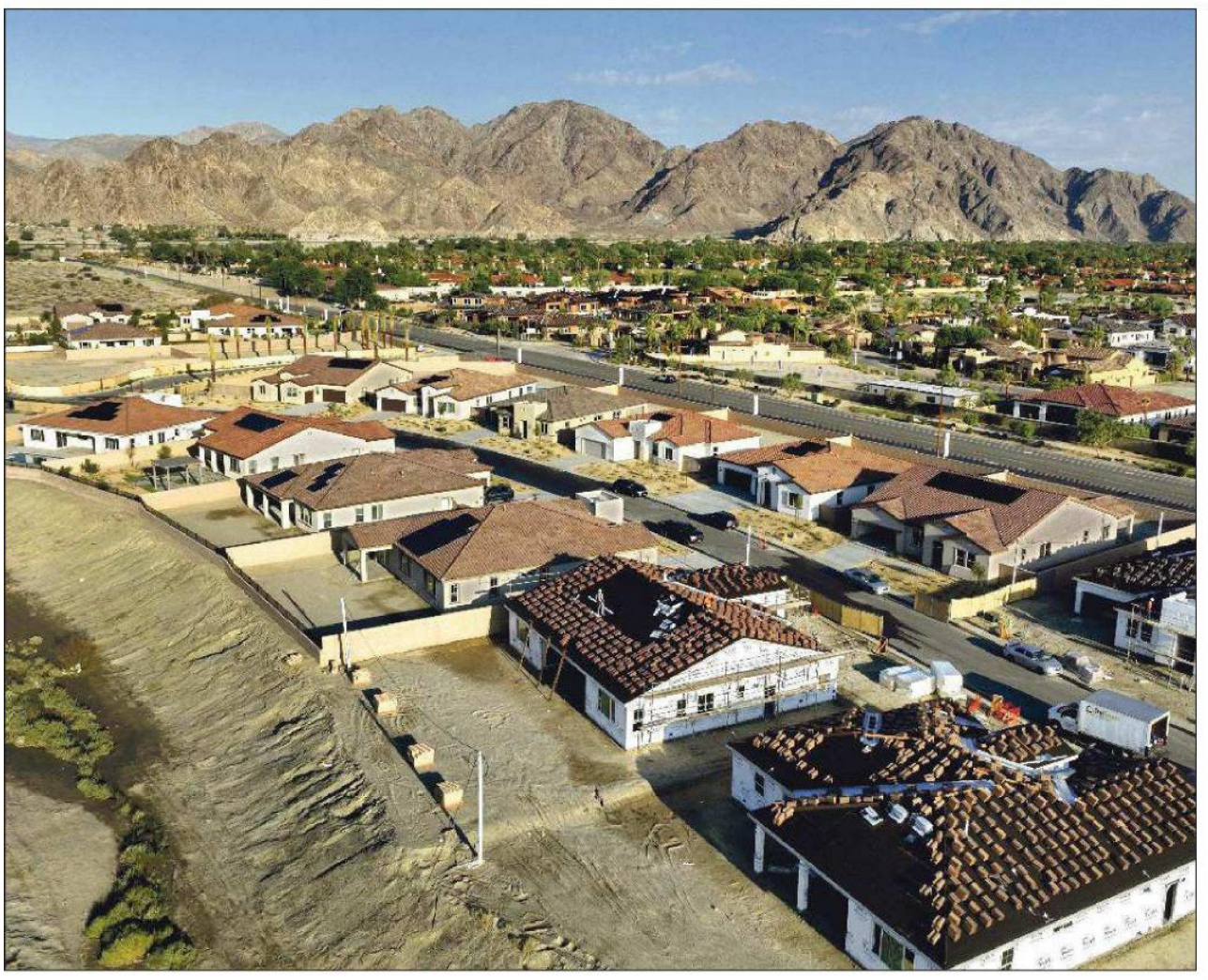
"If somehow we get down to the wire and we still hadn't resolved this and the due date was ... when I was supposed to be away, I would not go," he said.

Phil Schiliro, a former director of legislative affairs in the Obama White House, said he could see the parallels to 2011 in that the problem lies within the House Republican caucus.

"It wasn't that President Obama could reach an agreement. It was whether or not the House Republican caucus would support an agreement its leadership reached," he said.

The difference this time compared with previous fights, Schiliro said, is that in the past, few thought breaching the debt ceiling was a serious possibility — a catastrophic outcome that could tip the country into a recession.

"American families end up being the hostages ... that's why default can't be an option," he said.



CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT called Cantera at Coral Mountain goes up in La Quinta, Calif., in September. Ramped-up construction is not enough — at least yet — to seriously reduce housing prices, experts say.

As the state's population falls, housing construction booms

Homebuilding soared in 2022 to a level not seen in 14 years. Will it slow the exodus?

BY TERRY CASTLEMAN

Even as California's population took a hit during the pandemic, new data show the state experienced a boom in homebuilding the likes of which has not been seen since the Great Recession.

The rise in new construction — including increases in multiunit dwellings in some areas — comes as California faces a housing crisis that has sparked a push at the city and state levels to build more homes.

Experts say that although the ramped-up construction has helped, it is not enough — at least yet — to seriously reduce high rents and housing prices.

The data from the California Department of Finance show statewide housing production in 2022 increased 0.85%, the highest figure since 2008. That growth could eventually help combat the high cost of housing in California, demographic experts say, and plug the population drain.

Home construction rose in 2020 and 2021 but really took off in 2022, showing the biggest jump since 2008.

Though 2008 — the year a housing-driven financial crisis plunged the United States into the Great Recession — may be an ominous comparison, lawmakers have stated that additional housing is key to solving the state's affordability crisis, with Gov. Gavin Newsom pledging when he entered office in 2019 that 3.5 million new homes would be built by 2025.

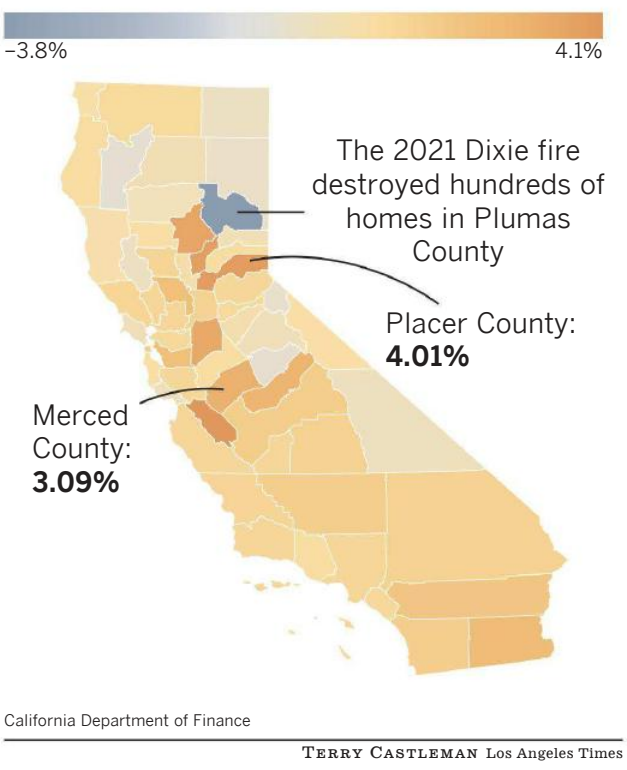
"When it takes a decade of really massive economic growth in this state for housing production to catch up to the prerecession levels, that says as much about the depths of our production crisis as it does about some kind of recent victory," said Michael Lens, a professor of urban planning and public policy at UCLA.

Lens did point to some policy changes, including

[See **Housing,** B5]

Housing growth by county from 2021 to 2023

The Central Valley saw major growth as California added housing at a rate not seen since 2008.



California Department of Finance

TERRY CASTLEMAN Los Angeles Times

Out for weeks, Feinstein heads back to Senate

Absence because of shingles had held up Biden's judicial nominees and spurred calls for resignation

BY MELANIE MASON, BENJAMIN ORESKES AND KWASI GYAMFI ASIEDU

Sen. Dianne Feinstein flew back to Washington on Tuesday, her spokesman said, after her extended absence due to the shingles virus threatened to derail Senate Democrats' agenda.

The senator's absence caused mounting heartburn for the Democratic majority, which has few votes to spare to confirm President Biden's Cabinet and judicial nominees, as well as potential legislation to avert a default on the national debt.

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) said in a statement that after talking with Feinstein several times in recent weeks, "it's clear she's back where she wants to be and ready to deliver for California."

"I'm glad that my friend Dianne is back in the Senate and ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work," he added.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that Feinstein, who had been convalescing in the Bay Area since mid-February, boarded a charter plane Tuesday to return to the Senate. Adam Russell, a spokesman for the Democratic senator, confirmed she arrived in the Washington area Tuesday evening but declined to comment further.

Feinstein, 89, has contended with questions about her health and ability to serve for several years, and her slow recovery from the shingles virus and related complications led some Democrats, including Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Fremont) and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), to call for her resignation.

On Tuesday, Khanna said he was glad to hear of Feinstein's return, and he was "hopeful that she will be able to fulfill her duties."

"The people of California deserve strong representation and a senator who can vote to advance President Biden's judicial nominees and protect Americans' fun-

[See **Feinstein,** B5]

FORMER TOP CITY ATTORNEY HEARS SENTENCE

Thomas Peters gets home detention for extortion scheme related to DWP.

BY DAKOTA SMITH

A former high-level lawyer in the Los Angeles city attorney's office was sentenced Tuesday to nine months of home detention for taking part in an extortion scheme tied to the Department of Water and Power's 2013 billing debacle.

Thomas Peters of Pacific Palisades also was ordered to pay a $50,000 fine for his role in the sprawling corruption case involving the DWP and the city attorney's office.

The sentence was far more lenient than the 18 months in prison sought by federal prosecutors and the 41 months in prison recommended by the United States Probation Office.

Peters, 57, who oversaw the city's civil litigation branch under former City Atty. Mike Feuer, admitted in a plea agreement last year that he aided and abetted an extortion scheme.

He threatened to fire one of the city's outside lawyers unless that person paid off someone who was threatening to reveal damaging information about city lawyers' handling of the DWP's billing mess, according to his plea agreement.

U.S. District Judge Stanley Blumenfeld Jr., in sentencing Peters on Tuesday, called the case "an incred-

[See **Extortion,** B2]

AN APPRECIATION

Remembering the 'Toughest Chicano'

BY GUSTAVO ARELLANO

The football player on the vintage Sports Illustrated cover looks beat.

He's framed from the chest up, the No. 11 on his rumpled purple Minnesota Vikings jersey barely visible. The sky behind him is blue, but the midday sun is blasting down on his face. The player is squinting, he has sweaty, shaggy hair with a couple of strands of gray, and his mouth is open and gasping. Scars decorate his chin.

Beat, but still standing.

Still looking for a shot to win.

"The Toughest Chicano: Viking Quarterback Joe Kapp" reads the front of the July 20, 1970, issue. Nothing else.

I first saw it in the late 1990s while trying to find out more about Kapp, who died Monday at 85 after a 15-year battle with dementia. Even back then, I knew my place in sports: on the sidelines. While my favorite cousins Vic and Plas and our best friend Art ruled neighborhood pigskin games and "Madden," my noodle arm

[See **Kapp,** B2]

State agrees to improve care for deaf people

Agency settles lawsuit over services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. **B3**

V.P. pulls out of event amid strike

Harris would've had to cross writers' picket line for MTV's town hall at Cal State Dominguez Hills. **B3**

Lottery **B4**

Plan to track 'tranq' in street drugs

Pilot program by county crime lab will better document its presence

JAE C. HONG Associated Press

A MAN smokes fentanyl mixed with methamphetamine in an L.A. alley last year. The potentially deadly sedative xylazine has turned up in local tests for four years.

Thirteen are arrested in the sale of fentanyl-laced drugs

Those in custody are accused in at least a dozen fatal overdoses in the region. **B3**

BY KERI BLAKINGER

Amid troubling signs that a dangerous sedative known as "tranq" has spread even further into the local street drug supply, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has launched a pilot program to better document the drug's presence.

Xylazine is an animal tranquilizer that began appearing several years ago in illicit pills and powders on the East Coast. It's been linked to deaths across the country and can cause human tissue to rot, leaving users with grisly wounds that sometimes lead to amputations.

In early March, county health officials initially said they weren't sure whether the deadly adulterant had begun appearing on the streets of Los Angeles. Weeks later, The Times learned that the Sheriff's Department crime lab had been detecting signs of xy-

[See **Drugs,** B4]

SPORTS ON THE BACK: Lakers have a chance to close out the Warriors in Game 5. **B10**

‘Toughest Chicano’ resonates 53 years later

[**Kapp,** from B1]
and butterfingers read books and articles about the sport’s past.

One of them must’ve mentioned Kapp, because the brief sketches about his career that I came across stuck with me. His short, punchy name, of course. The general impression I got that while he wasn’t the most talented of players, he remained a fierce competitor. The trademark Kapp move that all the write-ups seemed to include: While most quarterbacks of his era tried to evade tacklers when they scrambled for some yards, he put down his shoulder and smashed into them — and always got the better of it.

Once the internet became a thing, I decided to see what more I could find out about him. That’s how I came across Kapp’s “The Toughest Chicano” cover.

I was already politically awakened but still trying to figure out how I belonged in Southern California. Calling myself a Chicano didn’t vibe with my rancho libertarian ethos, which felt the term was an antiquated one only leftists used.

Kapp’s cover changed that fast. If a Super Bowl quarterback like him could embrace the term, why couldn’t I?

But I also felt puzzlement. None of the pieces I had read about Kapp — who I summarily found out was the son of a Mexican American mother and German father — had ever mentioned his ethnicity. Why? And if the history books weren’t telling us things like this, what else were they hiding?

That simple cover unlocked a world of pride in me and a passion for finding the truth that continues to this day.

Twenty years after first seeing it, I still think that “The Toughest Chicano” is one of the boldest covers any magazine has ever published. As Latinos continue to fight for visibility in popular culture and especially the media, to see one of the most prominent publications in the United States use such a loaded term — it was the “Latinx” of its day, kids — remains a landmark achievement. It also shows how ridiculously easy representation can be.

I mean, if Sports freakin’ Illustrated could do it, anyone can.

SI’s use of “Chicano” would be impressive today, but it was downright radical in 1970. The Chicano movement was in full force and inconveniencing the status quo. Earlier that year, the La Raza Unida Party formed and would disrupt elections in Texas and Los Angeles through the ballot box. About a week after the cover appeared, the United Farm Workers signed contracts with the grape growers they had boycotted for years. A month later, a protest against the Vietnam War in East L.A. ended in brutality, as sheriff’s deputies beat up protesters and three people were killed, including pioneering Chicano journalist Ruben Salazar.

At a time when headlines about Mexican Americans depicted us as criminals, immigrants or activists, Sports Illustrated portrayed Kapp and Chicanos as worthy of adulation. We could disrupt the status quo. We could also go to the Super Bowl.

“The Toughest Chicano” cover was so iconic that it became the title of Kapp’s 2019 biography and is being mentioned in all the remembrances about him getting published right now. But what Sports Illustrated’s homage and its accompanying article didn’t hint at was that Kapp would exemplify the spiritual and mental grit that all prominent Mexican Americans should keep.

Kapp has no chance of joining the NFL Hall of Fame, but his gridiron resume remains impressive. He was the leader of the last Cal Bears team to make it to the Rose Bowl and one of the first Latino college All-Americans. Kapp remains one of just two quarterbacks to lead teams to the Canadian Football League’s Grey Cup and the Super Bowl (Joe Theismann is the other). He was the Cal head coach during the infamous 1982 “The Play” face-off against the Stanford Cardinal that ended in an improbable last-second victory for the Bears.

Yet Kapp’s career was arguably more consequential off the field.

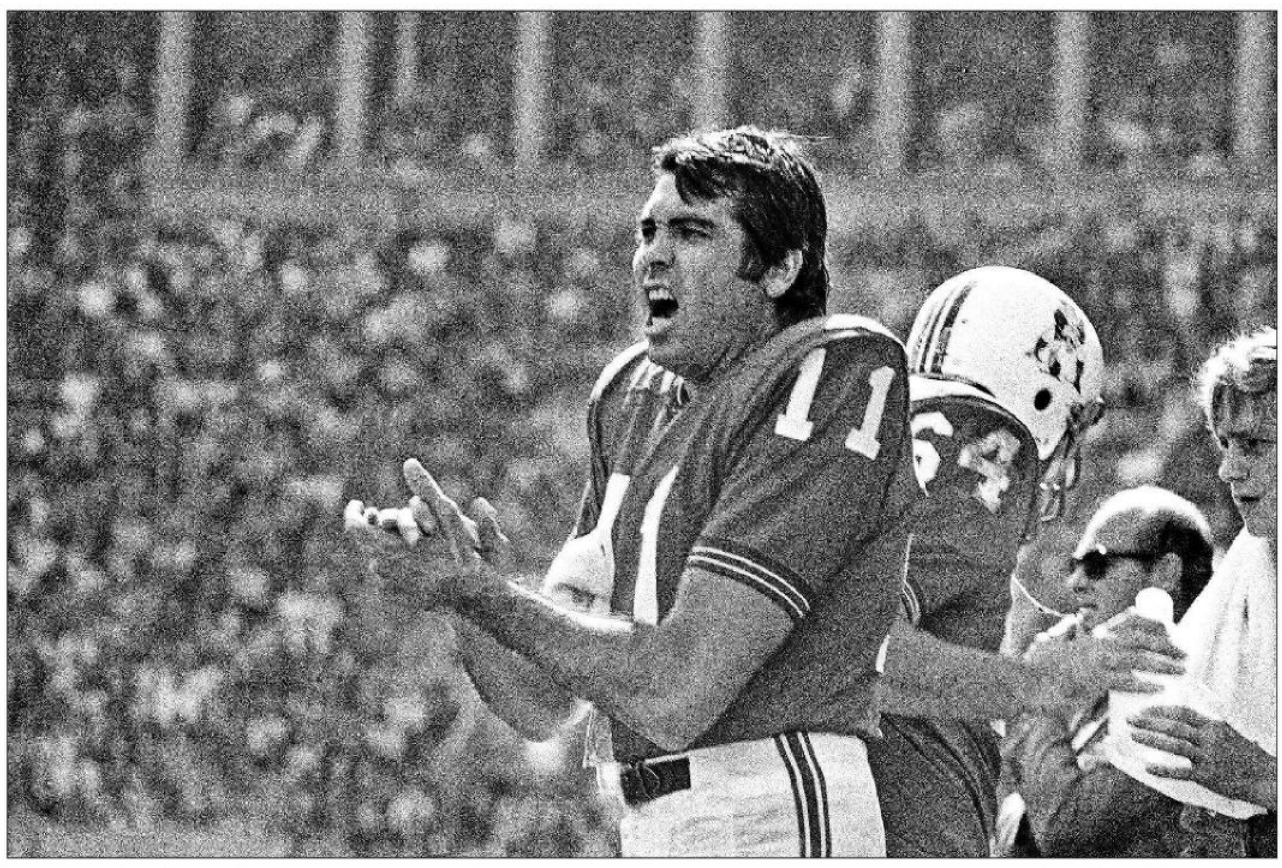
He filed a pioneering antitrust lawsuit against the NFL when no football team hired him in the offseason after his Super Bowl run. Once his playing career finished, he became a motivational speaker for youths, established a scholarship fund in his name and spoke out against the anti-Latino racism that he had weathered through his career and continued long after.

Kapp also went public with the mental struggles that afflicted him later in life, which his family said came from the hits their patriarch suffered on the field. Kapp joined the 2017 class-action lawsuit against the NFL that claimed the league’s long dismissal of concussions and hard hits had led to brain damage for former players.

To the end, Kapp showed up to win, damn the odds.

“I’m aware of my own reputation, and I enjoy it,” he told Sports Illustrated in the first-person story that accompanied his 1970 cover. “I’ve been called one-half of a collision looking for the other.”

“The Toughest Chicano,” indeed. Joe Kapp, *¡presente*!



Photographs by Associated Press

JOE KAPP, then of the Boston Patriots, shouts to teammates from the sideline during a game in October 1970.

AS THE Minnesota Vikings quarterback, Kapp helped lead the team to Super Bowl IV in January 1970, which it lost to the Kansas City Chiefs 23-7.

Los Angeles Times

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Former city attorney gets nine months of detention

[**Extortion,** from B1]
ibly sordid affair.” But he also questioned the extent of the “harm” done by Peters.

Peters, in speaking to the judge Tuesday, called his actions “shameful.” He declined to comment after the hearing. His wife, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elaine Mandel, was among those in the courtroom when the verdict was read.

Peters is the third former city employee to be sentenced in the corruption case that has cost the DWP more than $100 million, according to an initial estimate by the utility.

David Wright, the former top executive at the DWP, was sentenced in April 2022 to six years in federal prison for bribery. In June, David Alexander, the DWP’s former cybersecurity chief, was sentenced to four years in prison for lying to federal authorities.

Peters was a senior member of Feuer’s team when the DWP rolled out a new system that sent inaccurate bills to hundreds of thousands of customers.

The city attorney’s office hired two outside attorneys, Paul Paradis and Paul Kiesel, to sue PricewaterhouseCoopers, the consulting firm that the city blamed for the billing debacle.

Around the time Paradis began working with the city, he had also been representing Antwon Jones, a DWP customer who was looking to sue over the faulty utility bills. Several DWP ratepayers already had filed lawsuits against the utility after being overcharged.

Ultimately, Paradis and an official in the city attorney’s office — whom prosecutors have not named — devised a plan to settle all the lawsuits against the city by finding a lawyer to represent Jones. That way, the class-action lawsuit involving Jones and other ratepayers would be settled quickly on terms agreeable to the city.

In 2017, Peters — then heading the civil litigation office for Feuer — learned that a former employee of Kiesel, the outside lawyer helping to sue PricewaterhouseCoopers, had threatened to go public with damaging information about the city’s handling of the billing litigation unless she received more than $1 million, the plea agreement states.

That former employee had “sensitive documents” showing that the city’s legal team had secretly colluded with the lawyer representing DWP ratepayers in the billing lawsuit, prosecutors said.

In his plea agreement, Peters confirmed that he feared that if the employee went public with those documents, she would show that the settlement negotiations between the DWP and its ratepayers were not the “adversarial proceeding” that they were supposed to be, which would in turn jeopardize the city’s $67-million settlement and damage the reputation of Feuer’s office.

Peters instructed Kiesel to satisfy the staffer’s financial demand — and warned him that he would be fired if he didn’t. In his plea agreement, Peters admitted that he knew the employee’s conduct constituted extortion.

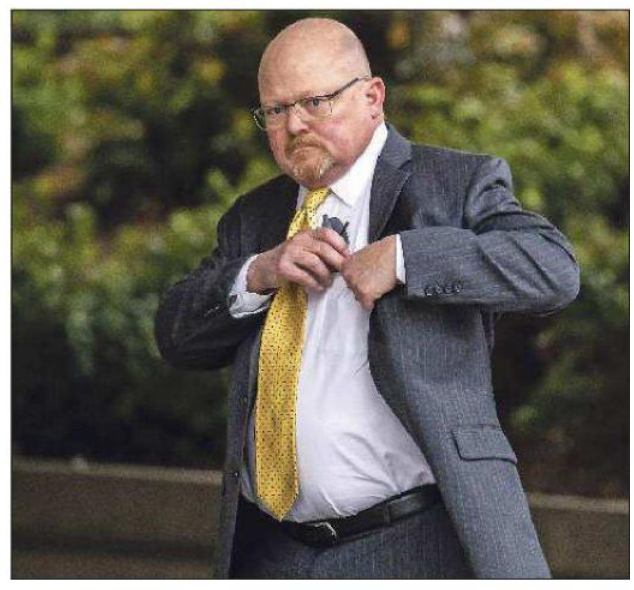
At Tuesday’s hearing, Blumenfeld noted that Peters didn’t come up with the idea for the collusive lawsuit, although he did go along with it once he learned about it. Blumenfeld also said that despite its origin, the DWP settlement appeared to be “beneficial” to the public because ratepayers’ money was recouped.

Some critics, however, objected to the final settlement, arguing that it gave too much power to the DWP because it let the utility determine how much customers should be repaid.

Prosecutors said they sought a reduced prison sentence for Peters because he helped with their criminal investigation and a State Bar of California probe.

Assistant U.S. Atty. Susan Har told Blumenfeld on Tuesday that she was worried about the message it would send to the public if Peters didn’t serve any time in prison. She noted that the city fought demands by PricewaterhouseCoopers to produce documents that would have revealed the collusive lawsuit and that Peters was “tethered” to that case.

But Blumenfeld suggested that he didn’t think Peters serving time in prison would deter other attorneys from committing misdeeds.



IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

THOMAS PETERS pleaded guilty in a scheme related to the L.A. Department of Water and Power.

Body of missing tech CEO found

A tip led police to human remains on abandoned property in Santa Monica.

By Summer Lin

Human remains found last month on an abandoned property in Santa Monica have been identified as the body of a tech founder and chief executive who was missing for a year and a half, the Los Angeles County coroner's office said.

Beau Mann, 39, was last seen Nov. 30, 2021, at a convenience store in the 11000 block of Ventura Boulevard in Studio City, according to the Los Angeles Police Department.

He had gotten into an Uber outside a 7-Eleven store near the L.A. offices of Sober Grid, a community platform he founded for people in addiction recovery, the company said Monday in a statement. He texted 911 from inside the Uber and was dropped off in Santa Monica, according to Sober Grid.

He was reported missing on Dec. 4, 2021.

The grassy lot where his remains were found was about a mile from where he was dropped off, according to Sober Grid.

On April 25, police received a tip about human remains on the abandoned property on Santa Monica Boulevard, according to the Santa Monica Police Department.

The L.A. County coroner, which identified the remains as those of Mann on Saturday, is working on determining the cause of death.

Authorities have not disclosed further details about the circumstances that led up to Mann's death, but Santa Monica Police Lt. Erika Aklufi said that it is being investigated as a possible homicide and that Mann had texted 911 but didn't respond to authorities' attempts to follow up.

"It was a gibberish text maybe and then he didn't respond," she said. "It's just another thing that we're going to be looking into."

Mann shared an Uber account with his fiance, and the fiance was able to confirm that he had taken a ride and where he was dropped off, Aklufi said.

Investigators are planning to speak to the Uber driver, who hasn't been deemed a suspect in the case, Aklufi said.

"We're looking at pretty much any option at this point to make sure it's thorough," she said.

Anyone with more information can contact Santa Monica Police Det. Ismael Tavera at (310) 458-2256 or the watch commander at (310) 458-8427.

Mann created Sober Grid in 2015 to provide a platform connecting people recovering from addiction after battling his own addiction to drugs "in his early years," the company said.

"We hope you will take a moment to think about Beau today," Sober Grid said in its statement. "His bright smile and endless energy and compassion will be missed. While he is no longer with us, we know Beau's spirit will live on in Sober Grid's mission to help those in need."

Allen J. Schaben Los Angeles Times

GOING FOR THE GOLD

A bicyclist rides past wildflowers blooming along the Santa Ana River trail in Anaheim. Southern California temperatures will remain on the low side Wednesday but will be warmer Friday and Saturday.

State agrees to improve services for deaf people to settle lawsuit

By Kevin Rector

The California Department of Developmental Services has agreed to improve the care it provides to deaf people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as part of a new legal settlement in federal court, according to court filings.

The settlement is the result of a 2020 lawsuit in which deaf clients, their guardians and statewide disability rights organizations alleged that thousands of deaf people who attend the department's day programs or live in its housing were being "systematically denied interpreters and other aids and services that are necessary for effective communication," among other injustices.

"They are isolated from social interaction and denied the opportunity to develop important life skills," the lawsuit alleged.

The lawsuit sought relief not just for the named plaintiffs, but also for an entire class of deaf clients who it alleged were being discriminated against within the state system.

State officials entered into negotiations with the plaintiffs to resolve their concerns without going through a lengthy trial.

The parties notified the court of the proposed settlement at the end of March, and U.S. District Judge Susan Illston granted preliminary approval of the settlement on April 28. It still needs final approval.

Under the agreement, the department will assess the communication needs of deaf clients at 21 regional centers it operates in the state, offer specialized training around those needs to center staff and other service providers, and increase collaboration with experts and other local agencies providing services to deaf people.

The state will hire a statewide deaf services specialist and provide funding to all 21 regional centers to hire their own deaf services specialists. It will also work on a "housemate matching system" that will give deaf clients more options for living together or with others with whom they can communicate.

The state will create a webpage with information on its services for deaf clients and notify all of its regional centers of their obligations under federal law not to discriminate against deaf clients, including by ensuring the centers have all the necessary services in place to communicate with them.

The settlement also anticipates the state paying $1.3 million to cover the plaintiffs' legal fees.

Department officials did not respond to a request for comment on the settlement Tuesday.

Meredith Weaver, senior staff attorney with Disability Rights Advocates, said her organization and the other plaintiffs were "really pleased" with the settlement.

"It's a robust package of changes, and to get those at the state level — so that it really impacts the system for all class members — is outstanding," Weaver said. "The state has made some really strong commitments here to hear the voices of class members and of the deaf community, and also to make changes starting pretty much immediately."

The advocacy groups have until the end of June to notify an estimated 10,000 class members of the settlement, and class members have until the middle of August to object, Weaver said.

The parties will seek final approval of the settlement at a hearing scheduled for Sept. 15, she said.

13 arrested in fatal fentanyl deaths

Among the victims in the region are a girl, 17, and man, 18, who took fake Percocet pills.

By Michael Finnegan

Thirteen people suspected of selling fentanyl-laced drugs that caused at least a dozen fatal overdoses in Southern California have been arrested, federal authorities said Tuesday.

One of the men arrested, Dominick Kingdiamond Alvarado, 22, of Tarzana, is suspected of selling fake Percocet pills tainted with fentanyl to teenagers at a Santa Clarita shopping mall, causing the overdose deaths of a 17-year-old girl and an 18-year-old man, prosecutors said.

Another man arrested, Heriberto Galvan 24, of North Hollywood, is suspected of selling fentanyl to a 19-year-old man from La Cañada Flintridge who was found dead in his car the next day, they said.

Martin Estrada, the U.S. attorney for the Central District of California, announced the arrests of Alvarado, Galvan and 11 others at a Los Angeles news conference with regional directors of the Drug Enforcement Administration and FBI, along with local law enforcement brass.

Dania Maxwell Los Angeles Times

A PHOTOGRAPH of counterfeit fentanyl pills is displayed at a news conference in 2021 in Los Angeles.

"The cases announced today charge drug dealers who have caused the death or injury of others and thereby prioritized greed over human life," Estrada said.

Attorneys for Alvarado and Galvan, who were arrested last week, could not be reached.

Fentanyl, an extremely potent synthetic opioid, has been killing about 70,000 Americans a year, federal authorities say.

Mexican cartels and other suppliers put it in counterfeit painkillers, cocaine and other drugs that are often sold to young buyers who do not understand the high risk of death. Dealers often use social media to arrange the sales.

Over the last five years, the DEA has led an overdose task force that works with local law enforcement in Southern California to target dealers selling poisoned drugs that result in fatal fentanyl overdoses. With the latest cluster of cases, federal prosecutors have filed charges against 64 people suspected of drug dealing.

Under federal law, drug sales that result in death can carry a mandatory prison sentence of 20 years.

In another case made public Tuesday, a Jefferson Park man, Adrian Benavides-Schorgi, 22, was charged with selling counterfeit pills containing fentanyl that led to the life-threatening overdoses of two 15-year-old girls in Santa Monica who thought they were buying ecstasy, prosecutors said.

Terra Castillo Laughton, an attorney for Benavides-Schorgi, declined to comment.

Pour one out for Nutmeg, the late Disneyland cat

By Terry Castleman

A feral cat that lived at Disneyland and inspired a secret cocktail at Magic Key Terrace, a restaurant at the park, has died, according to local news reports.

Nutmeg, an orange cat that was part of the group of felines allowed to live at the park in exchange for their pest-killing proclivities, was frequently seen at Disney California Adventure, according to Disneyland News Today. The cats have attracted a cult following, with more than 110,000 followers on Instagram.

The allegiance between theme park and feline visitors may go back to the days of Walt Disney, who, some say, discovered scores of cats in Sleeping Beauty Castle and refused to have them killed.

At night, the cats venture out. An estimated 200 of them were prowling around Disneyland and neighboring California Adventure Park in 2010.

Instead of evicting the cats, Disneyland's animal wranglers worked to control the population by spaying and neutering the adults and finding homes for all kittens born at the resort. The cats ate at permanent feeding stations installed throughout the two parks.

Disneyland representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment about how many cats now reside in the park and what their accommodations are.

Guests can still enjoy the beverage named in Nutmeg's honor. The cocktail is made with dark rum, half and half and raspberry flavoring, and features cinnamon and nutmeg on top, according to the Disney food blog. It costs $16.

Times staff writers Emily Foxhall and Hugo Martín contributed to this report.

Harris pulls out of event amid strike

V.P. would've had to cross writers' picket line for MTV's May 18 town hall in Carson.

By Courtney Subramanian, Seema Mehta and Erin B. Logan

WASHINGTON — Vice President Kamala Harris has pulled out of an MTV mental health awareness appearance in Carson next week, her first planned appearance in her home state since she and President Biden announced their reelection campaign.

The decision was made in solidarity with the Hollywood writers' strike with the hope that the event will be rescheduled, according to sources familiar with Harris' plans.

She was scheduled to appear alongside a surprise celebrity guest and young leaders on May 18 at Cal State Dominguez Hills for a town hall to raise awareness of Mental Health Action Day.

Spearheaded by MTV, the initiative "aims to empower young people to seek out and educate themselves about peer support programs on their campuses and in their communities," according to a news release about the event.

Harris chairs the White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment and likely would have to have crossed a picket line if she attended the event.

The Writers Guild of America, which represents 11,500 members, began striking on May 2 after its contract expired.

The first strike in 15 years comes as the entertainment industry has undergone a massive transformation because of streaming services.

The striking writers are demanding increases in minimum pay, better residual payments from streaming content and greater contributions to healthcare costs and pensions.

Production studios say they have made compensation and residuals concessions but have balked at other demands.

The news that Harris was pulling out of the event came a day after Biden called for studios to reach a "fair deal" for writers during remarks at a screening of "American Born Chinese" at the White House.

"Nights like these are a reminder of the power of stories, and the importance of treating storytellers with dignity, respect and the value they deserve," Biden said. "I sincerely hope the writer strike in Hollywood gets resolved and the writers are given a fair deal they deserve as soon as possible."

Guild President Meredith Stiehm thanked Harris "for supporting our labor action as we fight for a fair contract," adding that "11,500 writers are grateful for her solidarity."

A spokesperson for Cal State Dominguez Hills declined to comment. MTV did not respond to requests to comment.

This is the second MTV event upended by the strike. The cable station canceled a live broadcast of the MTV Movie & TV Awards on Sunday after host Drew Barrymore dropped out in solidarity with the striking writers.

Lloyd Bishop NBC via Getty

KAMALA HARRIS' decision was made to support striking writers, sources say.

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LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Notice is hereby given that proposals will be accepted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 for the following:
P2023-08 Legislative Representation in Sacramento, California
Closing Date: 6/6/2023 1:00 PM Contact: Philip Crabbe III 909-396- 2632
The RFP may be obtained through the Internet at: http://www.aqmd.gov/nav/grants-bids
If you have questions or would like a copy of the RFP mailed to you, call the contact person.
It is the policy of the South Coast AQMD to ensure that all businesses including minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, disabled veteran-owned businesses and small businesses have a fair and equitable opportunity to compete for and participate in South Coast AQMD contracts.
South Coast AQMD
Procurement Unit
5/10, 5/17/23
CNS-3699014#

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NO. 23STCP01127
Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
Michele Kramer
4943 Dunsmore Ave. La Crescenta, CA 91214
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:
Petitioner Michele Kramer filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name
Amelia Michele Miller
Proposed Name
Amelia Michele Kramer
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: 06/05/2023
TIME: 8:30 AM
DEPT: 72
ROOM: 731

Name Change

The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles County 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county.
Dated: 04/12/2023
David W. Slayton
Executive Officer / Clerk of Court
Published in the Los Angeles Times 05/10/23, 05/17/23, 05/24/23, 05/31/23

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NO. 23STCP01127
Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
Michele Kramer
4943 Dunsmore Ave. La Crescenta, CA 91214
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:
Petitioner Michele Kramer filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name
Elizabeth Anne Miller
Proposed Name
Elizabeth Anne Kramer
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
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Executive Officer / Clerk of Court
Published in the Los Angeles Times 05/10/23, 05/17/23, 05/24/23, 05/31/23

EMPLOYMENT 1500

Employment

Accountant: f/t; Nutrition supplement wholesale; Resume: GC Natural, 6081 Dale St #B, Buena Park, CA 90621

Los Angeles Times Classified
Los Angeles Times

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

In connection with litigation regarding the real property located at 25 Beverly Park Circle, Beverly Hills, California 90210 (legal description: Parcel 1: Lot 8 of Tract No. 38057, in the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, State of California, as per Map recorded in Book 1117 Pages 11 to 26 inclusive of Maps, in the Office of the County Recorder of said County. Except therefrom all oil, gas, minerals and other hydrocarbon substances including all rights incidental to such ownership, now or at any time hereafter situated in and under any portion of the lot lying below a depth of 500 feet measured vertically from the surface of the lot lying below a depth of 500 feet measured vertically from the surface of the lot together with the right to explore for, extract and produce the same and to enter subsurface of any portion of the lot, all for said purposes, without any right to enter upon the surface of said lot or into any portion of the subsurface thereof, lying above a depth of 500 feet, measured vertically from the surface of the lot. Parcel 2: A non-exclusive easement appurtenant to said Lot 8 above for ingress and egress over and across portions of said land defined and delineated as "private streets" on the Map of Tract No. 38057. Except that portion lying within Parcel 1. APN: 4386-025-010), the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles ordered service by publication upon unknown DOE cross-defendants and the text of the Summons to be published is as follows:

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Numero del Caso):
21SMCV00182
NOTICE TO CROSS-DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL CONTRA-DEMANDADO):
KEYWAY PRIDE LIMITED, LLC, a limited liability company; Kimora Lee Simmons, an individual; Tim Leissner, an individual; DOES 1 through 25, inclusive; and DOES 26-100, including all persons unknown, claiming any legal or equitable right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the property described in the complaint adverse to Defendant/Cross-Complainant's title, or any cloud upon Defendant/Cross-Complainant's title thereto, inclusive.
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY CROSS-COMPLAINANT:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL CONTRADEMANDANTE):
25 Beverly Park Circle Propco, LLC, a limited liability company

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the cross-complainant. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por esqrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al contrademandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov), o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
Los Angeles Superior Court
Beverly Hills Courthouse
9355 Burton Way
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiffs attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abodgado, es):
Eric V. Rowen Matthew R. Gershman
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
1840 Century Park East, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, CA 90067-2121
(310) 586-7700

Date: 10/24/2022

Sherri R. Carter — Executive Officer/ Clerk of the Court (Secretario)
C. Coleman — Deputy (Adjunto)

Published in the Los Angeles Times 4/26/2023; 5/3/2023; 5/10/2023; 5/17/2023

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Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER *(Número del Caso)*:
22CHLC23088
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT *(AVISO AL DEMANDADO)*: SERGE MERGELIAN, YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF *(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE)*: WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (*www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp*), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (*www.lawhelpcalifornia.org*), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (*www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp*), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! *Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.*
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov)*, en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.*
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 9425 Penfield Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is *(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es)*: HARLAN M. REESE, ESQ. (CA BAR NO.: 118226), REESE LAW GROUP, 3168 Lionshead Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92010; 760/842-5850 (File No. 568363)
DATE *(Fecha)*: 10/19/2022
SHERRI R. CARTER EXECUTIVE OFFICER / CLERK OF COURT, Clerk *(Secretario)*, by L.LACANLALE, Deputy *(Adjunto)*
(SEAL)
4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10/23
CNS-3691976#

Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case Number (Numero del Caso): 22STCV32805

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Alexander Wilson

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
Pranav Popat

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
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There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
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The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles (Stanley Mosk Courthouse)
111 N. Hill St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Justin J. Eballar, Esq.
827 Moraga Drive
Los Angeles, California 90049
213-293-8973

Date: (Fecha) October 12, 2022

Sherri R. Carter — Clerk (Secretario)
J. So — Deputy (Adjunto)

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NMYEO

VEARB

PMROTI

ODUTIS

Get the free **JUST JUMBLE** app • Follow us on Twitter **@PlayJumble**

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Let me ring this up for you.
Do you want me to help with this?
I've got this. I have a great rate on this card. I'll have it paid off by the holidays.
USING HER CREDIT CARD TO PURCHASE THE CLOCK MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR HER TO ---
5/10

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VITAL NIECE WEALTH DOLLAR
Answer: It's impossible for humans to know everything, which we just have to — LEARN TO LIVE WITH

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JAE C. HONG Associated Press

A DRUG USER holds fentanyl in L.A. last year. Drugs tainted with xylazine can cause tissue to rot.

County program targets 'tranq'

[**Drugs,** from B1]

lazine in drug samples for at least four years — but they'd never told the health department or the public.

At the time, department officials said that was because, despite its harms, xylazine is not illegal, so formally tracking it was beyond the scope of their work.

Now, though, the pilot program could help change that.

Starting in mid-April, crime lab analysts began making note of any preliminary signs of xylazine they spotted while testing samples of confiscated drugs. In the past, even when lab workers noticed test results that seemed to show the presence of xylazine, they didn't typically make any note of it. Instead, they treated it like any other legal substances commonly used as additives in illegal drugs.

"There are a bunch of different additives — like vitamin C, which comes up a lot — that we don't write down," said Capt. Ernest Bille, who oversees the department's Scientific Services Bureau. "The mission, given the volume of the caseload that we have, is to figure out: Is this a controlled substance or not?"

Over the course of a monthlong trial run, officials hope to get a better sense of how often they typically see presumptive positives for xylazine. If the number is relatively low, they'll keep tracking for another month, Bille said. If it's high, they'll begin figuring out standards for doing additional confirmatory tests in the future — just as they would for illegal drugs.

"This is going to be very unique for us, because I'm asking them to track a non-controlled substance," Bille said.

The move to track the dangerous sedative — spurred in part by conversations with UCLA researchers who study illicit drugs — comes as federal data show an uptick in the drug's presence across the county and in Southern California.

"In the Greater Los Angeles area we are seeing xylazine as an additive within fake fentanyl pills," said Nicole Nishida, spokesperson for the Los Angeles Field Division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. "While the numbers are relatively low in our community compared to elsewhere in the United States, the presence of xylazine is now becoming more frequent and the trend is concerning."

Federal data show that about 23% of fentanyl powder and 7% of fentanyl pills seized last year contained xylazine. Nishida said those figures were around 3% and 8% for the Greater Los Angeles region over that same period.

But those numbers might be less telling for Angelenos than they first appear: The Los Angeles Field Division's region is so broad that it includes most of Southern California as well as Nevada, Hawaii and the territories of Guam and Saipan.

It's not clear whether the xylazine samples were concentrated in one part of that region, and officials did not provide data more specific to Los Angeles County.

So far, law enforcement efforts to quantify and document the presence of xylazine in Los Angeles street drugs have been relatively limited — though, aside from the DEA figures, there are a growing number of signs of its presence.

An early public indication of the drug came in February, when a county health official confirmed to The Times that one man — a 25-year-old in El Monte — had trace levels of xylazine in his body when he died in December 2021. But the drug was present in such small amounts that the county medical examiner listed "combined effects of ethanol and fentanyl" as the cause of death.

Then in March, the county's Department of Public Health issued a news release warning Angelenos that the sedative was "increasingly present within illicit drugs in California" and that it was now "likely present" in Los Angeles.

The news release mentioned the 2021 death and several others elsewhere in the state. However, although it said that xylazine had been detected in samples in cities to the north and to the south, it said nothing about whether there had been similar finds locally.

Then last month — a few weeks after the Sheriff's Department acknowledged seeing signs of xylazine for at least four years — the UCLA researchers studying local street drugs confirmed finding the sedative in a sample of black tar heroin.

"It's just another indication that it's here in L.A.," said Chelsea Shover, an epidemiologist and health services researcher at UCLA. "And it's really important for people who use drugs to know that."

One of the reasons xylazine is regarded as a particularly dangerous additive in street drugs is that, since it is not an opioid, the overdose-reversal medication naloxone is not effective on it.

Still, Shover said, if you believe that someone you know has overdosed on xylazine, the best course of action is to give them naloxone and call 911. Typically, xylazine is mixed with fentanyl to extend the drug's high, so naloxone may still be effective.

"If you give someone naloxone but they're still sedated, that's a clue it could be xylazine," Shover said. "Then call 911 for medical attention — but if you can't do that, try to keep them comfortable and safe while they are sedated."

For people who are using drugs but want to minimize the risk of ingesting xylazine, Shover said, there are now xylazine test strips available online.

Lottery results

Tonight's SuperLotto Plus
Jackpot: $57 million
Sales close at 7:45 p.m.

Tonight's Powerball Jackpot:
$109 million
Sales close at 7 p.m.

For Monday, May 8, 2023

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

15-20-33-36-43—**Powerball 12**
Jackpot: $97 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + P-ball	0	—
5	1	$3,202,599
4 + P-ball	1	$87,213
4	24	$416
3 + P-ball	64	$162
3	1,601	$7
2 + P-ball	1,343	$8
1 + P-ball	10,262	$5
P-ball only	24,277	$4

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**

4-37-46-48-51—**Mega 19**
Jackpot: $83 million

Fantasy Five: 9-15-25-29-34

Daily Four: 8-5-2-2

Daily Three (midday): 0-4-1

Daily Three (evening): 7-7-3

Daily Derby:
(11) Money Bags
(4) Big Ben
(3) Hot Shot
Race time: 1:43.93

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

Feinstein returns after out sick for weeks

[**Feinstein,** from B1]
damental rights. The three-month absence hurt our agenda, and time will tell on the future," Khanna said.

Feinstein has missed nearly 80 votes this year, according to ProPublica — the most of any senator. Her absence has been keenly felt on the Senate Judiciary Committee, where, without Feinstein, Democrats needed at least one Republican vote to advance Biden's nominations for federal judges.

As outcry grew about her absence, Feinstein asked for another Democrat to temporarily be appointed to the panel in her place. Republicans rejected that effort.

The blockade threatened to stymie Biden's rapid clip of securing judicial confirmations, which Carl Tobias, a professor of law at the University of Richmond, called "the best-kept secret around." He said Biden has been open in his goal of appointing judges that would offset the conservatives confirmed under former President Trump.

"He pledged he would counter that and he has," Tobias said.

In a statement last week, Feinstein responded to critiques that she was causing a backlog for the Judiciary Committee and said she would be returning to Washington, without specifying a timeline.

Her Democratic colleagues in the Senate had mostly demurred on weighing in on what she should do, although there were some flashes of anxiety as the weeks progressed.

"I want to treat Dianne Feinstein fairly. I want to be sensitive to her family situation and her personal situation. And I don't want to say that she's going to be put under more pressure than others have been in the past," Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) said Sunday on CNN. "But the bottom line is, the business of the committee and of the Senate is affected by her absence."

With Feinstein's return to the Senate, Democrats will have an 11-10 edge on the Judiciary Committee, enabling Biden's nominations to progress to the full Senate without needing a GOP vote. The committee is due to meet Thursday to consider nominations to the federal bench.

The cross-country trip Tuesday may also serve to dampen growing complaints about a lack of transparency from Feinstein's office on details about her medical condition. Last week, her staff declined to give The Times a report or interview from her doctor.

Indivisible California, a progressive group, issued a letter calling on Feinstein to resign because of her absence. Representatives were invited to a Zoom call with Feinstein's staff last week,

Kent Nishimura Los Angeles Times

SEN. DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-Calif.), shown in the U.S. Capitol on Feb. 14, has contended with questions about her health and ability to serve for several years.

which they said was devoid of specifics about her condition.

Patti Crane, a member of Indivisible's South Bay L.A. chapter who participated in the call, said Feinstein's trip back to Washington was a positive development.

"We're just thrilled that she's well enough to climb on that chartered plane and get to Washington," Crane said. "It's great that she's been eating her Wheaties and is healthy and robust so she can keep fighting for Californians."

Still, some progressives said they continue to have concerns about the senator's health. Aimee Allison, founder and president of She the People, an advocacy group pushing for more women of color to hold elected office, called for "assurances that the senator will be able to fully represent our state and carry out the duties of her position."

"Sen. Feinstein's absence has made the work of ensuring the best for our state and country more difficult, and we hope that her return is one that we can count on. If not, it is time for us to have a necessary discussion about the future of the California Senate seat," said Allison, who is backing Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) in next year's race to succeed Feinstein. The senator is not seeking reelection.

Two of the Democrats vying for the Senate seat — Rep. Adam B. Schiff of Burbank and Rep. Katie Porter of Irvine — said they welcomed Feinstein's return. (Lee could not be reached for comment). The sentiment was echoed by California's junior senator, Alex Padilla, who said he knew Feinstein was "eager to return to continue our important work."

The Senate contest, which began in earnest even before Feinstein announced in February she would not run again, had also been affected by the uncertainty over her health.

The lengthy absence had set off fresh speculation about what would happen if Feinstein could not complete her final term and whom Gov. Gavin Newsom would appoint to fill her seat.

Newsom, who had committed to appointing a Black woman to the Senate if he had the opportunity, said Feinstein's health troubles set off a deluge of questions about what he would do.

"Emails, calls, texts, people stopping me — I'm not kidding, this is one of the biggest topics here," Newsom said in a television interview last week.

His office declined to comment on her return to Washington.

Housing construction has boomed

[**Housing,** from B1]
those governing accessory dwelling units, as positive steps. "Some of this is the result of smarter policy," he said, "but it's also a really slow rebound."

A Times analysis of county-level data showed that between 2021 and 2022, Central and Northern California counties saw the biggest housing growth. Placer, Yuba, Butte, San Joaquin, Merced and San Benito counties led the state in growth, all above 3%.

"That's not what we would hope," Lens said of more rural areas adding the most housing, as Central California is "not where housing is most expensive" and "not the most economically productive area of the state."

"The battle that we're facing on a land-use front," he said, is the prevalence of "overly restrictive coastal areas."

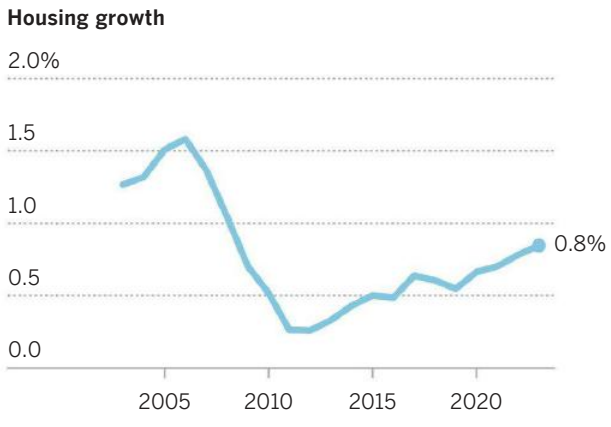
"We still haven't found a way to make San Francisco and the surrounding areas, and Los Angeles and its surrounding areas, build more housing more quickly," said Lens, adding that the housing crunch has driven population loss.

Unaffordability and the pandemic have driven several years of population loss in California, a trend that continued in 2022, when the state lost around 138,400 people, a 0.35% drop. The decline was less than in the prior years, a slowdown partially attributable to skyrocketing foreign immigration.

During the pandemic, foreign immigration plummeted, but 2022 saw levels recover to near prepandemic rates. California had a net gain from immigration of 90,300 people last year, almost three times the total of 31,300 the year before.

California housing growth over the past 20 years

During the pandemic, California added housing at the fastest rate since the Great Recession.



Data from Jan. 2003 to Jan. 2023
California Department of Finance

Terry Castleman Los Angeles Times

The increase in immigration, however, was not enough to stop California's three largest counties from experiencing population loss yet again.

Los Angeles County's population declined by 73,293 people, or 0.75%, San Diego County's by 5,680 people, or 0.2%, and Orange County's by 14,782 people, or 0.5%, according to the state Department of Finance report.

Overall, 46 of California's 58 counties lost population last year. Of 482 cities counted, 356 lost population, or 74%.

"Hundreds of thousands more people would desire to live in the Bay Area — if not millions — and Southern California, if we made it easier to accommodate those people through more housing units and presumably more affordable housing," Lens said.

A Times analysis showed that after rising steadily in the 2010s, the number of people per household dropped significantly in 2020 and has stayed low.

Overcrowding, which may have contributed to the high 2010s numbers, is "a predictable byproduct of very expensive housing," according to Lens.

"A lot of the declines in the pandemic had to do with people needing to separate from multigenerational living," he said, and may not reflect better housing outcomes for people overall.

Although losing population, major cities built the majority of new multifamily housing, the data show. Los Angeles added 12,074 multifamily units, which accounted for 62% of net housing growth, and San Diego added 4,568 such units for 65% of net growth.

Oakland and San Francisco skewed even more toward multifamily development, adding 3,880 and 2,573 units, respectively, which accounted for 97% and 91% of growth.

Suburban cities, on the other hand, often prioritized single-family housing. All of the development — 100% — in Roseville and Santa Clarita was single-family housing, the report says. In Fresno, the figure was 92%, and in Irvine, 71%.

The housing crunch was exemplified by a boom in the production of accessory dwelling units. ADU production increased by 61% in 2022 as the state added more than 20,000 units.

In all, the state netted 123,350 housing units in 2022, the most in nearly 15 years.

The state still has a long way to go to meet its housing needs. A Times review found that although Newsom has prioritized housing issues more than his predecessors in office, he has fallen far short of his goals.

New state-level oversight seeks to ensure that "the total number of housing units that every region is expected to build is rising," Lens said, as well as enforcing better distribution region by region. Beverly Hills should absorb people, he said, not just the Coachella Valley.

"We expect more equitable and more productive housing construction over the next decade," Lens said, "but it's going to take some time and take some diligence on the part of the state."

Redone cigarettes draw state warning

Updated versions of Camel, Newport, Kool may violate ban on flavoring, makers told.

By Vanessa Arredondo

California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta has issued warnings to two tobacco companies, stating that they may be in violation of the state's ban on flavored products, a measure upheld by nearly two-thirds of voters last year.

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and ITG Brands received letters dated April 25 from the Tobacco Unit of the California Department of Justice notifying the companies that packaging and promotional materials for nine reformulated versions of Camel, Newport and Kool cigarettes violated the state law and were presumed to be flavored.

"As part of Atty. Gen. Bonta's fight to protect the health and safety of California's youth, and to carry out the will of the people, our office continues to investigate tobacco products that may run afoul of that law," a spokesperson for Bonta said in an email statement.

The companies have 60 days to respond to the letters, and they indicated they would, according to the spokesperson.

The 2022 law banned the sale of certain flavored tobacco products in stores and vending machines, aiming to deter use among children by eliminating kid-friendly flavors such as bubblegum, cotton candy and cherry.

Lawmakers approved the statewide ban despite lobbying by the tobacco industry. The campaign against the flavor ban raised millions of dollars, including funds from R.J. Reynolds and Philip Morris USA.

The letter sent to R.J. Reynolds stated that the company used brand names, text and colors "traditionally" associated with menthol-flavored tobacco products. The reviewed products also included a non-tobacco "capsule" that the labeling indicated would produce a different taste.

Promotional material for the products suggested that these cigarettes would taste or smell differently from a solely tobacco-flavored product, the letter stated. The products were targeted at users of menthol-flavored tobacco products and promoted as an alternative, the letter said.

An R.J. Reynolds spokesperson said in an email statement that the letters were "issued in error" and that the products listed by the state attorney general did not have any "distinguishable taste or aroma other than tobacco."

"We market these products to clearly indicate that they are nonmenthol," according to the statement. "The letters merely presume that the products have a characterizing flavor based solely upon the review of packaging and promotional materials, not the products themselves."

ITG Brands did not respond for comment.

In 2022, 16.5% of high school and 4.5% of middle school students — or 3.08 million — reported using a tobacco product in the last 30 days, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Most of the students used flavored e-cigarettes, with fruit flavors being the most popular.

Massachusetts became the first state in 2019 to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products. New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island have banned flavored e-cigarettes.

Obituaries

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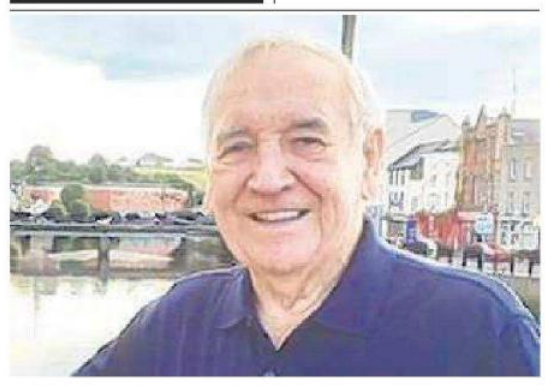
Kerry C. Sherf

On Easter Sunday, April 9th 2023, Kerry C. Sherf, passed away at home. He was 79 years old. Kerry was born in Illinois and moved at a young age to the Burbank, CA area. Kerry worked for 31 years for the City of Glendale at the Power Plant. Kerry is preceded in death by his loving wife, Aurelia (Laskey) Scherf, who he was happily married to for 39 years. He is also preceded in death by his step-son Eric. He leaves behind a large, grieving family including, Sisters-In-Law Paul & Camille (Laskey) Howard and Barbara (Laskey) Abell; daughter Shawna Zink, 2 grandchildren, and multiple nephews and extended generations of family and friends.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 12th at Valhalla Memorial Park at 10 o'clock a.m. Flowers & condolences can be sent to Valhalla Memorial Park 10621 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606.

Sandy Gaber Zwirn
04/29/1937 - 05/04/2023
Service May 10, 2023 2:00
Hillside Memorial Park



Thomas Myles McConville
1931 - 2023

Our beloved father has left us, but has reunited with the love of his life, Joan – who after 65 years of marriage – went before him to prepare a place for them to spend eternity together with the Almighty.

Tom was born in Portadown, County of Armagh, Northern Ireland, where he excelled in school and in sports. He played for the Tir na nOg Gaelic Football Club and played left half back for the Armagh GAA All Ireland Championship minor team in 1949.

He met Joan in Portadown, and after their marriage in 1954, they emigrated from Northern Ireland to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) before immigrating to Southern California to join his brother Rory and a growing Irish community there.

Tom was proud of his Irish heritage and started a weekly radio show to play Irish music and provide relevant news to the Irish and Irish American community. His radio program continued for over forty years. Tom was also a long-term contributor to the Irish Center of Southern California, an organization that promotes Irish culture and supports Irish and Irish American causes.

Tom will be remembered for his sense of humor, quick wit, and willingness to help others. But to his family, he will be remembered as a devoted husband and caring father who encouraged his children to have faith, work hard and laugh often. Most people who knew him will agree with the highest of compliments – he was a good man.

Tom is survived by his six children and their spouses, Michael (Mary), Brenda (Darren (RIP)), Maura, Daniel (Nellie), Eileen, Thomas (Celestine), nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church located at 3801 Scott Road, Burbank, CA 91504, with the Vigil (Rosary) on Friday May 12 at 7:30 pm, and Funeral Mass on Saturday May 13 at 12:00 pm. Burial will follow at the San Fernando Mission Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Irish Center of Southern California.

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Still on the cool side: An upper-level trough will shift to the east, but temperatures will remain on the low side of average. Clouds will be considerable with a moist onshore flow this morning before intervals of sunshine increase this afternoon. Weaker onshore flow and building upper-level high pressure will allow a little warming Thursday and noticeable warming Friday and Saturday.

5-day forecasts

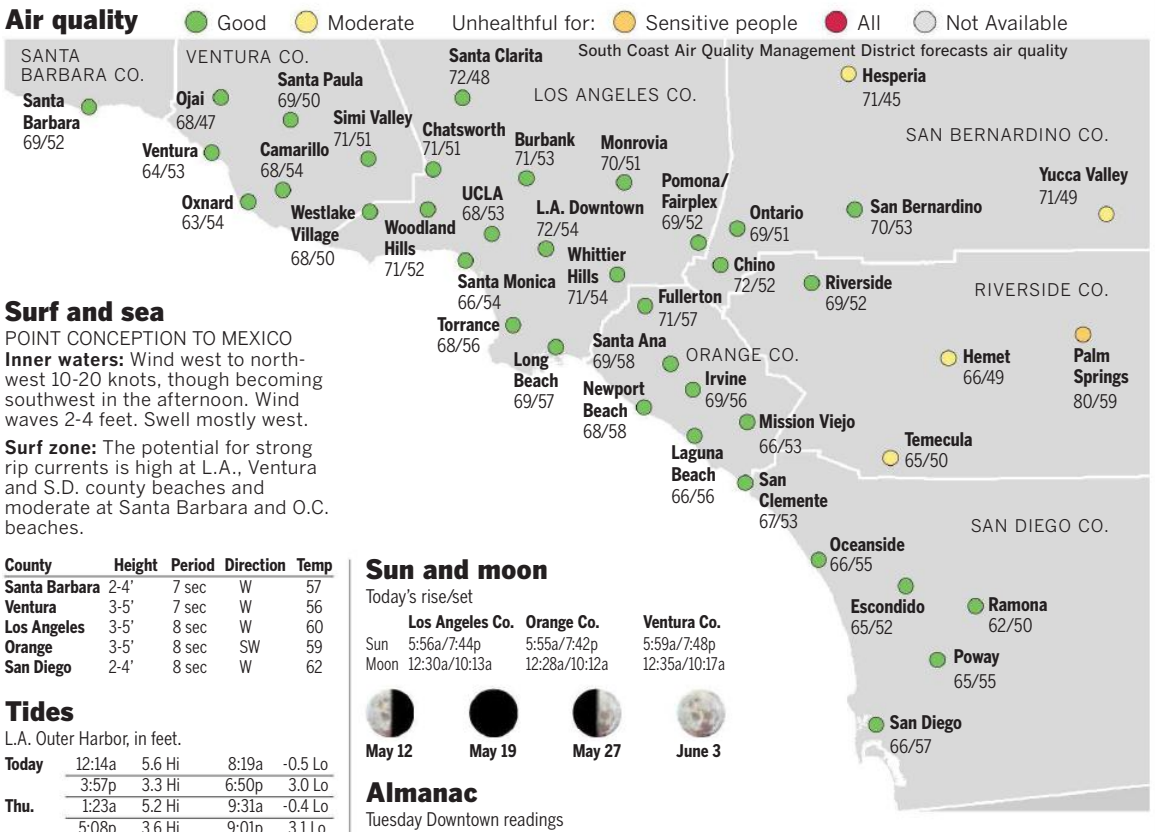
High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	72|54		71|51		66|54		55|31		80|59	
	Low clouds clearing		Partly sunny; cool		Low clouds clearing		Mostly sunny; cool		Breezy and cool	
Thursday	Some sun	70/56	Mostly sunny	75/56	Partly sunny	65/54	Mostly sunny	63/37	Warmer	90/69
Friday	Partly sunny	75/56	Mostly sunny	81/59	Partly sunny	66/55	Mostly sunny	67/37	Warmer	100/77
Saturday	Mostly sunny	79/60	Very warm	88/60	Sunny	69/60	A p.m. shower	67/43	Hot	102/75
Sunday	Partly sunny	79/58	Partly sunny	82/58	Partly sunny	70/60	A few showers	68/42	Hot	99/71

Air quality

Good · Moderate · Unhealthful for: Sensitive people · All · Not Available

South Coast Air Quality Management District forecasts air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind west to northwest 10-20 knots, though becoming southwest in the afternoon. Wind waves 2-4 feet. Swell mostly west.

Surf zone: The potential for strong rip currents is high at L.A., Ventura and S.D. county beaches and moderate at Santa Barbara and O.C. beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	2-4'	7 sec	W	57
Ventura	3-5'	7 sec	W	56
Los Angeles	3-5'	8 sec	W	60
Orange	3-5'	8 sec	SW	59
San Diego	2-4'	8 sec	W	62

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	12:14a	5.6 Hi	8:19a	-0.5 Lo
	3:57p	3.3 Hi	6:50p	3.0 Lo
Thu.	1:23a	5.2 Hi	9:31a	-0.4 Lo
	5:08p	3.6 Hi	9:01p	3.1 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 25 · Phoenix, 10
Los Angeles, 25 · San Francisco, 25

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	5:56a/7:44p	5:55a/7:42p	5:59a/7:48p
Moon	12:30a/10:13a	12:28a/10:12a	12:35a/10:17a

May 12 · May 19 · May 27 · June 3

Almanac

Tuesday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	66/57	70/56	62/52
Normal high/low	74/57	76/57	69/51
High/low a year ago	69/54	69/53	65/50
Record high/date	99/1923	87/2007	84/1978
Record low/date	44/1879	51/2003	42/1950

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	28.02	21.31	26.51
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	12.16	6.46	11.33
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	13.81	11.40	15.68
Humidity (high/low)	92/64	86/50	89/62

California cities

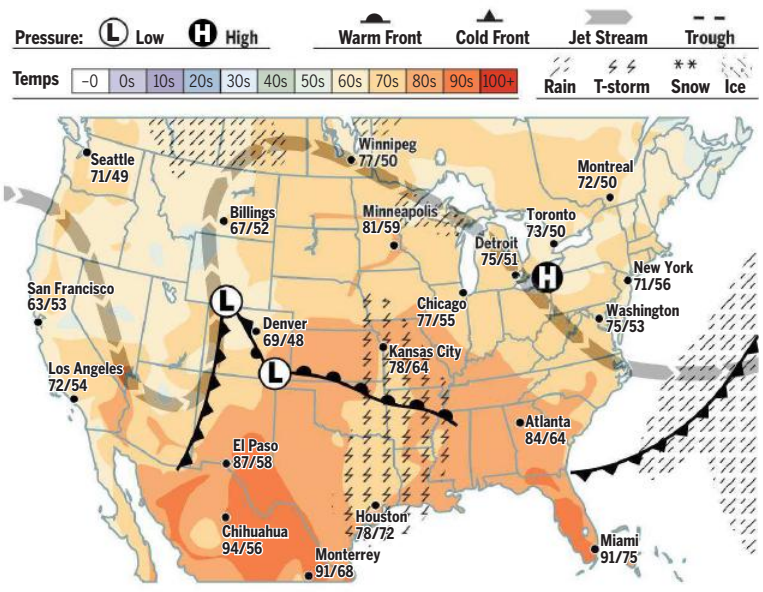
City	Tuesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Thursday Hi	Lo
Anaheim	73	57	--	71	55	72	57
Avalon/Catalina	62	50	--	58	48	60	53
Bakersfield	65	49	--	77	53	79	57
Barstow	83	56	--	80	54	85	63
Big Bear Lake	58	32	--	55	31	63	37
Bishop	72	42	--	75	42	79	47
Burbank	65	54	--	71	53	73	53
Camarillo	66	53	--	68	54	67	51
Chatsworth	64	51	--	71	51	74	54
Chino	73	52	--	72	52	76	53
Compton	68	54	--	70	55	70	54
Dana Point	66	55	--	67	55	66	55
Death Valley	94	69	--	93	82	94	80
Del Mar	65	58	--	61	57	61	57
Escondido	72	55	--	65	52	71	51
Eureka	53	43	--	57	47	55	47
Fallbrook	71	55	--	65	52	69	51
Fresno	74	52	--	76	51	79	55
Fullerton	70	56	--	71	57	71	56
Hemet	69	50	--	66	49	74	49
Hesperia	72	48	--	71	45	79	48
Huntington Beach	70	54	--	68	57	64	58
Idyllwild	62	33	--	54	41	67	52
Irvine	71	54	--	69	56	71	57

City	Tuesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Thursday Hi	Lo
L.A. D'ntown/USC	69	33	.57	72	54	70	56
L.A. Int'l. Airport	66	55	Tr	68	56	68	56
Laguna Beach	71	52	--	66	56	64	58
Lancaster	68	49	--	72	54	80	52
Long Beach	67	56	--	69	57	68	58
Mammoth Lakes	57	27	--	57	31	62	37
Mission Viejo	71	51	--	66	53	69	55
Monrovia	65	49	--	70	51	73	54
Monterey	60	50	--	61	50	63	50
Mt. Wilson	xx	xx	--	48	42	51	47
Needles	91	63	--	87	65	89	69
Newport Beach	65	58	--	68	58	66	58
Northridge	68	52	--	71	52	74	53
Oakland	64	47	--	63	52	65	51
Oceanside	69	46	--	66	55	69	55
Ojai	63	46	.01	68	47	69	52
Ontario	69	52	--	69	51	74	53
Palm Springs	88	59	--	80	59	90	69
Pasadena	67	54	--	70	51	70	54
Paso Robles	67	46	--	73	44	77	46
Redding	74	47	--	75	50	81	55
Riverside	72	44	--	69	52	75	52
Sacramento	74	48	--	71	48	76	51
San Bernardino	72	52	--	70	53	77	51

City	Tuesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Thursday Hi	Lo
San Diego	66	60	--	66	57	65	58
San Francisco	65	53	--	63	53	63	53
San Gabriel	xx	xx	--	72	53	72	55
San Jose	68	48	--	67	49	70	49
San Luis Obispo	65	51	--	64	47	70	50
Santa Ana	69	58	--	69	58	69	59
Santa Barbara	67	50	--	69	52	65	52
Santa Clarita	64	49	--	72	48	75	54
Santa Monica Pier	64	54	--	66	54	65	54
Santa Paula	65	48	--	69	50	67	50
Santa Rosa	71	44	--	69	46	74	46
Simi Valley	64	49	--	71	51	70	51
Tahoe Valley	53	26	Tr	54	29	60	34
Temecula	70	53	--	65	50	72	50
Thousand Oaks	63	51	.01	69	51	68	51
Torrance	72	52	--	68	56	67	56
UCLA	xx	xx	--	68	53	68	55
Van Nuys	xx	xx	--	72	51	74	54
Ventura	62	52	--	64	53	61	52
Whittier Hills	71	55	--	71	54	71	54
Woodland Hills	73	49	--	71	52	71	52
Wrightwood	59	43	--	57	41	64	46
Yorba Linda	71	52	--	70	53	72	55
Yosemite Valley	64	38	--	60	39	67	46

Today in North America

More storms in the middle of the country: Warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico will produce thunderstorms from Texas north to eastern Kansas and Missouri. Thunderstorms, some severe with damaging winds and hail, will erupt from eastern Wyoming to eastern Colorado.



U.S. cities

TUESDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 99 in Pecos, Texas

Low 20 in Angel Fire, N.M.

City	Tuesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	66	41	--	73	51	Su
Albuquerque	83	50	--	80	47	W
Anchorage	49	36	.01	55	42	Cy
Aspen	66	36	--	64	36	Cy
Atlanta	85	68	--	84	64	Pc
Austin	77	67	.10	84	69	Ts
Baltimore	69	62	.02	74	50	Hz
Boise	62	42	.38	69	43	Su
Boston	57	50	--	71	55	Su
Buffalo	62	46	--	68	48	Hz
Burlington, Vt.	62	36	--	73	53	Su
Charleston, S.C.	94	69	.40	81	60	Pc
Charlotte	89	62	--	81	56	Pc
Chicago	70	46	--	77	55	Su
Cincinnati	74	58	--	77	53	Su
Cleveland	64	52	Tr	69	48	Su
Columbia, S.C.	92	66	.05	83	57	Su
Columbus	72	54	.10	76	51	Su
Dallas/Ft.Worth	85	69	--	77	66	Ts
Denver	78	43	.10	69	48	Ts
Detroit	70	49	.02	75	51	Su
El Paso	94	58	--	87	58	W
Eugene	67	43	--	72	47	Pc
Fort Myers	91	69	--	92	74	Su
Hartford	68	44	--	73	52	Su
Honolulu	85	72	Tr	86	73	Pc
Houston	78	64	1.14	78	72	Ts
Indianapolis	74	55	--	78	53	Pc
Jacksonville, Fla.	89	67	--	87	67	Ts
Kansas City	79	61	.06	78	64	Cy
Knoxville	84	62	.05	83	60	Pc
Las Vegas	85	62	--	83	64	Su
Louisville	78	61	.77	81	59	Su
Medford	70	39	Tr	70	49	Ts
Memphis	90	66	Tr	85	68	Ts
Miami	88	72	--	91	75	Pc
Milwaukee	65	46	--	70	50	Pc
Minneapolis	68	55	.04	81	59	Cy
Nashville	86	63	Tr	86	65	Pc
New Orleans	85	74	.18	83	72	Cy
New York	71	55	--	71	56	Su
Norfolk	71	67	.06	69	54	Su
Oklahoma City	84	69	--	76	62	Ts
Omaha	77	61	--	79	62	Ts
Orlando	89	65	--	93	72	Su
Philadelphia	70	58	--	73	53	Hz
Phoenix	93	67	--	81	64	Su
Pittsburgh	72	52	.07	73	47	Su
Portland, Ore.	68	45	.25	75	53	Pc
Providence	62	45	--	71	50	Su
Raleigh/Durham	87	64	--	80	54	Pc
Reno	64	36	--	66	43	Pc
Richmond	74	64	Tr	76	51	Hz
St. Louis	76	60	--	83	63	Pc
Salt Lake City	69	47	--	67	50	Pc

City	Tuesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Seattle	64	48	Tr	71	49	Pc
Tampa	88	71	--	93	75	Pc
Tucson	94	59	--	79	51	Su
Tulsa	88	69	--	79	63	Ts
Washington, D.C.	67	62	.17	75	53	Hz
Wichita	86	65	Tr	82	62	Cy

World

City	Tuesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	91	76	--	90	76	Su
Amsterdam	61	55	1.78	59	48	Sh
Athens	72	61	.02	71	54	Pc
Bangkok	99	81	1.35	94	80	Ts
Barcelona	70	61	.04	70	57	Pc
Berlin	67	46	--	71	51	Sh
Cabo San Lucas	86	70	--	89	67	Su
Cairo	82	64	--	89	65	Cy
Dubai	102	81	--	101	83	Su
Dublin	61	48	.10	57	44	Sh
Havana	90	70	.12	90	70	Ts
Ho Chi Minh City	89	78	.44	93	80	Ts
Hong Kong	79	71	.03	80	73	Pc
Istanbul	61	54	.01	59	51	Cy
Jerusalem	71	51	--	84	61	Su
Johannesburg	62	45	--	68	44	Su
Kuala Lumpur	93	78	.05	96	77	Cy
Lima	75	68	--	75	68	Pc
London	64	55	.18	62	46	Sh
Madrid	84	59	--	78	47	Pc
Mecca	103	78	--	104	79	Su
Mexico City	82	55	--	83	57	Su
Montreal	61	43	--	72	50	Su
Moscow	57	30	--	61	43	Pc
Mumbai	91	84	--	94	84	Pc
New Delhi	99	73	--	99	75	Hz
Paris	64	54	.76	61	46	Sh
Prague	63	37	--	65	48	R
Rome	73	57	--	68	52	Ts
Seoul	75	46	--	78	49	Pc
Singapore	91	81	--	94	80	Pc
Taipei City	76	65	--	83	67	Su
Tokyo	66	52	--	74	59	Pc
Vancouver	61	48	--	64	48	Su
Vienna	64	41	--	65	47	Sh

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Tuesday's readings as of 5 p.m.

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MORRY GASH Associated Press

THE DODGERS' James Outman beats the tag from Brewers catcher Victor Caratini and scores in the second inning. Outman had doubled and came home on Miguel Rojas' two-out single to right field.

Syndergaard leaves with 'nasty' cut

[**Dodgers,** from B10]

fore Tuesday's game, and Syndergaard didn't have any issues in the bullpen.

"I warmed up fine — then I went to use the restroom before the game, and I looked down, and my hand was bleeding pretty good," he said. "We tried to do what we could to make it serviceable."

After completing his warm-up pitches before the bottom of the first, Syndergaard walked back to the dugout, his finger bleeding badly. Trainers stemmed the bleeding enough for Syndergaard to start the game, but the sealant didn't dry fast enough.

Syndergaard threw 20 pitches in the first inning and escaped a two-on, no-out jam with the help of left fielder Chris Taylor, who made a leaping catch of a Willy Adames drive at the wall, and second baseman Miguel Vargas, who started an inning-ending double play. But it was clear he couldn't continue.

"It was pretty nasty, it was raw," manager Dave Roberts said. "Even in that first inning, there were numerous pitches that he threw that had blood residue on it. He was willing to keep going, but to what end?"

Syndergaard downplayed the issue, describing it as "nothing out of the ordinary," and said he didn't think he'd have to go on the injured list.

But Roberts said Syndergaard's issues were "very comparable" to the ones endured by former Dodgers left-hander Rich Hill, who missed several weeks at a time because of blisters on the middle finger of his pitching hand.

Like with Hill, the Dodgers will have to decide whether to let Syndergaard keep pitching or to shut him down for a few weeks and give the finger time to heal.

"Do we want to try to nip it at some point, or are we gonna have to deal with it for the rest of the season?" Roberts said. "We just don't know the answer. ... Certainly, the injury list is a possibility, but we want to give Noah and the training staff some time before we make that decision."

The Dodgers offense gave the bullpen some wiggle room Tuesday night, pounding nemesis Eric Lauer, the Brewers left-hander who entered with a 7-1 record and 2.37 ERA in 11 career starts against them, for four runs and four hits in 3⅔ innings.

Mookie Betts opening the game with his 39th career leadoff homer. Freddie Freeman walked, stole second, took third on Lauer's errant pickoff attempt and scored on Will Smith's sacrifice fly to center for a 2-0 lead. James Outman doubled and scored on Miguel Rojas' two-out single to right in the second, and Smith's solo homer to left, his fifth of the season, made it 4-0 in the third.

The Brewers scored twice in the seventh but couldn't put a dent in the rest of the bullpen.

"They did amazing," Betts said of the bullpen. "They kept them off the board, other than two solo homers."

Ohtani passes Ruth with Okey catching

[**Angels,** from B10]

equately considering the brief introductions. Before the game, Okey met with Ohtani to learn his pitch shapes and other intricacies. Wallach and O'Hoppe also tried to help Okey get up to speed on what to expect when catching Ohtani.

"It's always hard when it's your first time because I feel like you need to develop, sometimes, a relationship with your catcher," Ohtani said in Japanese via interpreter Ippei Mizuhara. "I'm sure it was hard for him too and not just me. I'm not sure if I'm going to be pitching to him going forward, but I'd like to keep on communicating with him, get to know him better."

The Angels' catcher situation has been in flux because of the injuries the group has endured.

Stassi (family emergency/hip strain) and O'Hoppe (torn labrum surgery) are not returning anytime soon. Wallach's IL stint is retroactive to Sunday, meaning he could be back by Ohtani's next start Monday in Baltimore.

On Tuesday, Ohtani became the player with the most pitching strikeouts among players to also hit at least 100 career home runs. The two-way star has 134 career home runs.

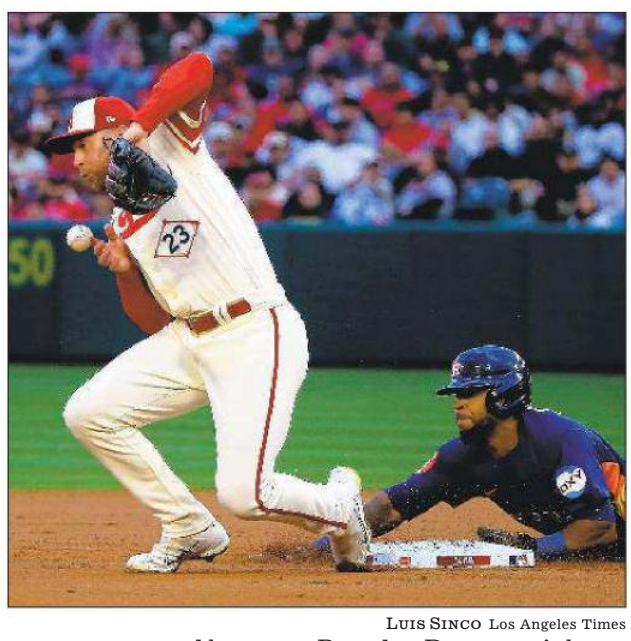
Ruth's career lasted 22 years, though he pitched during just 10 seasons. He finished with 501 career pitching strikeouts, according to the Elias Sports Bureau — the statistical entity that Major League Baseball follows — and 714 home runs. (Different stats websites cite Ruth as having just 488 career strikeouts.) Ohtani now has 507 career strikeouts in just 395⅔ innings.

"It's a great thing that I could pass [Ruth], but I felt like I could've struck out more hitters today," Ohtani said. "It's still a long season. It's still early. I just want to stay healthy and end the season healthy."

Ohtani struck out seven over seven innings, giving up three runs and six hits and walking two. He yielded a two-run home run to Martín Maldonado in the fifth inning.

"He's really good. I mean, he's human," Nevin said of Ohtani after the game. "And I think he made, really, one bad pitch to a guy who seems to really do a lot of damage against us."

The Angels' run came on rookie shortstop Zach Neto's first major league home run in the third inning.



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

ANGELS second baseman Brandon Drury can't handle the throw as Houston's Corey Julks steals second.

BASEBALL

NL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	22	15	.595	–	8-2
Arizona	20	16	.556	1½	6-4
San Diego	19	17	.528	2½	6-4
San Francisco	16	19	.457	5	5-5
Colorado	15	22	.405	7	7-3
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Pittsburgh	21	16	.568	–	2-8
Milwaukee	20	16	.556	½	3-7
Chicago	17	19	.472	3½	3-7
Cincinnati	15	20	.429	5	5-5
St. Louis	13	24	.351	8	3-7
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Atlanta	25	11	.694	–	8-2
Miami	18	19	.486	7½	4-6
New York	17	19	.472	8	2-8
Philadelphia	17	19	.472	8	4-6
Washington	15	21	.417	10	6-4

Tuesday's results

DODGERS 6, at Milwaukee 2
Colorado 10, at Pittsburgh 1
at Cincinnati 7, New York 6
at Philadelphia 8, Toronto 4
at Atlanta 9, Boston 3
San Diego 6, at Minnesota 1
St. Louis 6, at Chicago 4
at San Francisco 4, Washington 1
Miami 6, at Arizona 2

AL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Texas	21	14	.600	–	7-3
ANGELS	20	17	.541	2	6-4
Houston	18	18	.500	3½	4-6
Seattle	18	18	.500	3½	7-3
Oakland	8	29	.216	14	3-7
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Minnesota	19	17	.528	–	4-6
Cleveland	17	19	.472	2	4-6
Detroit	16	19	.457	2½	6-4
Chicago	13	24	.351	6½	6-4
Kansas City	10	27	.270	9½	4-6
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Tampa Bay	29	8	.784	–	7-3
Baltimore	23	13	.639	5½	6-4
Toronto	21	15	.583	7½	4-6
Boston	21	16	.568	8	8-2
New York	20	17	.541	9	5-5

Tuesday's results

Houston 3, at ANGELS 1
at Cleveland 2, Detroit 0
at Baltimore 4, Tampa Bay 2
Chicago 4, at Kansas City 2
at New York 10, Oakland 5
at Philadelphia 8, Toronto 4
at Atlanta 9, Boston 3
San Diego 6, at Minnesota 1
at Seattle 5, Texas 0

TODAY'S GAMES

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
DODGERS/Kershaw (L)	5-2	2.53	11:30 a.m.
MIL/Miley (L)	3-1	2.31	SNLA
COL/Senzatela (R)	0-1	1.80	9:30 a.m.
PIT/Hill (L)	3-3	4.54	
Miami/Cabrera (R)	2-3	4.78	12:30 p.m.
ARI/Kelly (R)	3-3	2.75	
WAS/Gray (R)	2-5	3.03	12:45 p.m.
SF/Manaea (L)	1-1	7.33	
NY/Verlander (R)	0-1	3.60	3:30 p.m.
CIN/Greene (R)	0-2	3.74	
STL/Montgomery (L)	2-4	3.29	4:30 p.m.
CHI/Steele (L)	5-0	1.45	

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
HOU/Javier (R)	2-1	3.54	1 p.m.
ANGELS/Canning (R)	2-0	5.31	BSW
OAK/Muller (L)	1-2	6.62	9:30 a.m.
NY/Brito (R)	2-3	6.08	
DET/Rodriguez (L)	3-2	1.81	10 a.m.
CLE/Battenfield (R)	0-3	4.07	
TEX/TBD	—	—	12:30 p.m.
SEA/Castillo (R)	2-0	2.38	
TB/TBD	—	—	3:30 p.m.
BAL/Kremer (R)	3-1	5.80	
CHI/Lynn (R)	1-4	6.86	4:30 p.m.
KC/Keller (R)	2-3	4.67	

INTERLEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
TOR/Gausman (R)	2-3	3.86	1 p.m.
PHI/Wheeler (R)	3-2	4.26	
BOS/Bello (R)	1-1	5.71	4 p.m.
ATL/TBD	—	—	
SD/Lugo (R)	3-2	3.21	4:30 p.m.
MIN/López (R)	2-2	3.77	

* joined in progress

ODDS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
DODGERS	-164	at Milwaukee	+138
at Pittsburgh	-142	Colorado	+120
Miami	-110	at Arizona	-106
at San Francisco	-250	Washington	+205
New York	-176	at Cincinnati	+148
St. Louis	OFF	at Chicago	OFF

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
Houston	OFF	at ANGELS	OFF
at New York	-250	Oakland	+205
at Cleveland	-130	Detroit	+110
at Seattle	-168	Texas	+142
Tampa Bay	-124	at Baltimore	+106
Chicago	-136	at Kansas City	+116

INTERLEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
Toronto	-120	at Philadelphia	+102
at Atlanta	OFF	Boston	OFF
at Minnesota	-126	San Diego	+108

LEADERS

Through Monday

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	R	H	Avg.
Arraez, Miami	32	116	12	48	.414
Estrada, San Francisco	33	131	23	45	.344
Acuña, Atlanta	35	136	30	46	.338
Díaz, Colorado	32	102	12	34	.333
Friedl, Cincinnati	34	113	11	36	.319

Home runs

Muncy, DODGERS 12
Wisdom, Chicago 11
Alonso, New York 11
Olson, Atlanta 10

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	R	H	Avg.
Chapman, Toronto	34	126	20	44	.349
Bichette, Toronto	35	149	25	49	.329
Arozarena, Tampa Bay	34	131	24	43	.328
Díaz, Tampa Bay	33	117	29	38	.325
Yoshida, Boston	29	112	22	36	.321

Home runs

Devers, Boston 11
Rooker, Oakland 10
Renfroe, ANGELS 9
Díaz, Tampa Bay 9
García, Texas 9

DODGERS 6, BREWERS 2

Streak	Won 1	**This month**	6-2
Home	12-6	**Road**	10-9
Division	9-7	**Interleague**	0-0

Next: Today at Milwaukee, 10:30 a.m. PDT
TV/Radio: SportsNet LA/570, 1020

Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Betts rf	4	1	1	1	.254
Freeman 1b	4	1	0	0	.286
Smith c	4	1	3	2	.329
C.Taylor lf	4	0	0	0	.207
Muncy 3b	5	1	1	0	.209
Vargas 2b	4	1	1	2	.220
Outman dh	3	1	1	0	.274
Thompson cf	3	0	0	0	.132
Rojas ss	3	0	1	1	.170
Totals	**34**	**6**	**8**	**6**	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Yelich lf	3	0	1	0	.244
Winker dh	1	0	0	0	.233
a-Voit dh	2	0	1	0	.217
Adames ss	4	0	0	0	.229
Tellez 1b	4	1	1	1	.239
Anderson 3b	4	0	0	0	.244
Caratini c	3	1	1	1	.300
Turang 2b	4	0	0	0	.245
T.Taylor rf	4	0	1	0	.231
Wiemer cf	3	0	0	0	.215
Totals	**32**	**2**	**5**	**2**	

Dodgers	211	002	000 – 6	8	1
Milwaukee	000	000	200 – 2	5	1

a-struck out for Winker in the 6th.

Walks–Dodgers 6: Betts 1, Freeman 1, C.Taylor 1, Vargas 1, Thompson 1, Rojas 1. Milwaukee 3: Yelich 1, Winker 1, Caratini 1. **Strikeouts**–Dodgers 7: Betts 1, Freeman 1, Muncy 1, Vargas 1, Outman 1, Thompson 2. Milwaukee 8: Winker 1, Voit 1, Adames 1, Tellez 1, Anderson 1, Turang 1, Wiemer 2. **E**–Vargas (3), Lauer (1). **LOB**–Dodgers 9, Milwaukee 6. **2B**–Outman (7). **HR**–Betts (7), off Lauer; Smith (5), off Lauer; Vargas (3), off Wilson; Tellez (10), off S.Miller; Caratini (2), off S.Miller. **RBIs**–Betts (20), Smith 2 (18), Rojas (1), Vargas 2 (17), Tellez (23), Caratini (6). **SB**–Freeman (5), T.Taylor (3). **SF**–Smith. **DP**–Dodgers 1 (Vargas, Rojas, Freeman); Milwaukee 1 (Turang, Adames, Tellez).

Dodgers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Syndergaard	1	1	0	0	1	0	20	6.12
Bickford	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1	18	5.40
Bruihl, W, 1-0	1⅓	0	0	0	0	2	25	1.35
Almonte	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	6.46
González	1	0	0	0	0	1	10	0.00
S.Miller	1⅔	2	2	2	1	2	30	2.20
Graterol	1	1	0	0	1	2	31	3.00
Phillips, S, 6-6	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	6	2.19
Milwaukee	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Lauer, L, 3-4	3⅓	4	4	3	2	4	67	4.72
Wilson	2⅓	2	2	2	0	2	35	2.70
Varland	1⅓	1	0	0	3	1	44	2.25
Peguero	1⅓	1	0	0	1	0	19	1.74

HBP–Varland (Outman).
T–2:53. **Tickets sold**–23,874 (41,700).

ROCKIES 10, PIRATES 1

Colorado's Jurickson Profar had his first multihomer game in four years and Connor Seabold got his first major league win. Pittsburgh has lost eight of its last nine games.

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Blkmn dh	4	1	2	1	.268
Grichk cf	5	0	1	1	.375
Bryant rf	5	1	2	0	.310
Doyle cf	0	0	0	0	.229
Cron 1b	4	1	1	1	.236
Díaz c	3	2	1	0	.333
McMn 3b	5	1	1	2	.203
Trejo 3b	0	0	0	0	.250
Profar lf	4	3	2	3	.220
H.Cstr 2b	3	0	1	0	.241
Tovar ss	4	1	0	1	.229
Totals	**37**	**10**	**11**	**9**	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Hayes 3b	3	1	1	0	.254
R.Castro 3b	1	0	0	0	.260
Reynolds lf	4	0	1	0	.296
Owings ss	1	0	0	0	.250
McCthn dh	3	0	1	1	.234
Santana 1b	2	0	0	0	.252
Andujar rf	1	0	0	0	.200
Swnski cf	3	0	0	0	.231
Palacios rf	2	0	0	0	.000
a-Joe rf	0	0	0	0	.279
Delay c	3	0	0	0	.360
Marcno ss	4	0	1	0	.234
Bae 2b-cf	3	0	0	0	.232
Totals	**30**	**1**	**4**	**1**	

Colorado	010	400	500 – 10	11	0
Pittsburgh	001	000	000 – 1	4	1

a-walked for Palacios in the 6th.

Walks–Colorado 4: Blackmon 1, Díaz 2, H.Castro 1. Pittsburgh 6: Hayes 1, McCutchen 1, Santana 1, Joe 2, Delay 1. **Strikeouts**–Colorado 4: Blackmon 1, Grichuk 1, Díaz 1, Profar 1. Pittsburgh 11: Hayes 1, Reynolds 1, McCutchen 1, Andujar 1, Suwinski 2, Delay 2, Marcano 1, Bae 2. **E**–Marcano (1). **LOB**–Colorado 5, Pittsburgh 10. **2B**–H.Castro (3), Hayes (9). **3B**–McMahon (1). **HR**–Profar (4), off Ortiz; Profar (5), off Underwood Jr.. **RBIs**–Profar 3 (14), Tovar (16), Blackmon (13), Grichuk (2), Cron (17), McMahon 2 (16), McCutchen (16). **SF**–Cron. **S**–Bae. **DP**–Pittsburgh 1 (Joe, Owings).

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Seabold, W, 1-0	5	3	1	1	3	3	77	4.56
Suter	1	0	0	0	1	2	18	1.17
Bird	1	1	0	0	0	3	19	2.88
Mears	2	0	0	0	2	3	32	3.00
Pittsburgh	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Ortiz, L, 0-1	5	7	5	2	1	1	74	3.60
Hernandez	1	0	1	1	1	1	11	2.30
Underwood Jr.	1	4	4	4	1	0	24	4.32
Ramirez	1	0	0	0	0	2	12	1.80
Stephenson	1	0	0	0	1	0	13	1.12

HBP–Seabold (Suwinski).
U–Sean Barber, Mike Muchlinski, Alan Porter, Nate Tomlinson.
T–2:32. **Tickets sold**–11,916 (38,753).

BRAVES 9, RED SOX 3

Matt Olson crushed a two-run home run in Atlanta's four-run first inning, and Sean Murphy drove in four runs. Charlie Morton improved to 8-1 in 14 career starts against Boston.

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Verdugo rf	5	1	3	0	.317
Yoshida lf	5	0	0	0	.308
Turner dh	3	2	2	2	.273
Devers 3b	3	0	0	0	.245
Duran cf	4	0	1	0	.360
Hrnndz ss	3	0	1	1	.238
Casas 1b	1	0	0	0	.161
a-Dlbec 1b	1	0	0	0	.182
Valdez 2b	3	0	1	0	.325
b-Refsnyder	1	0	0	0	.236
McGuire c	4	0	0	0	.322
Totals	**33**	**3**	**8**	**3**	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Acuña Jr. rf	4	3	2	0	.343
Olson 1b	2	2	1	2	.250
Riley 3b	4	1	0	0	.239
Murphy c	4	1	3	4	.299
Rosario lf	5	0	1	0	.248
Albies 2b	5	0	1	1	.280
Ozuna dh	4	1	1	1	.151
Harris II cf	3	0	0	0	.208
Arcia ss	4	1	3	1	.358
Totals	**35**	**9**	**12**	**9**	

Boston	001	001	010 – 3	8	0
Atlanta	410	210	01x – 9	12	0

a-struck out for Dalbec in 8th. b-struck out for Valdez in 9th.

Walks–Boston 4: Devers 1, Hernández 1, Casas 2. Atlanta 5: Acuña Jr. 1, Olson 3, Riley 1. **Strikeouts**–Boston 12: Yoshida 1, Devers 2, Duran 1, Hernández 1, Dalbec 1, Valdez 2, Refsnyder 1, McGuire 3. Atlanta 6: Acuña Jr. 1, Olson 1, Riley 1, Rosario 1, Ozuna 1, Harris II 1. **LOB**–Boston 8, Atlanta 9. **2B**–Verdugo (11), Turner (8), Acuña Jr. (12), Arcia (4), Murphy (9). **HR**–Turner (3), off Morton; Olson (11), off Pivetta. **RBIs**–Turner 2 (14), Hernández (13), Olson 2 (29), Albies (27), Ozuna (10), Murphy 4 (32), Arcia (8). **SB**–Duran (5). **SF**–Turner. **Runners left in scoring position**–Boston 3 (McGuire 2, Dalbec); Atlanta 6 (Murphy 2, Albies 2, Rosario, Harris II). **RISP**–Boston 2 for 6; Atlanta 4 for 17. **DP**–Boston 1 (Valdez, Hernández, Casas); Atlanta 1 (Olson, Arcia, Olson).

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pivetta, L, 2-3	4	8	7	7	3	2	90	6.23
Bernardino	1	2	1	1	1	1	29	1.93
Brasier	1	1	0	0	0	1	8	7.13
Littell	2	1	1	1	1	2	31	9.00
Atlanta	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Morton, W, 4-3	6	5	2	2	2	7	100	3.32
Yates	1	0	0	0	1	2	17	2.84
Minter	1	2	1	1	1	1	25	7.13
Young	1	1	0	0	0	2	14	1.93

HBP–Pivetta (Murphy), Bernardino (Harris II). **WP**–Pivetta.
U–Cory Blaser, Clint Vondrak, Carlos Torres, Jansen Visconti.
T–2:42. **Tickets sold**–36,805 (41,149).

MARLINS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Jorge Soler hit two homers, including one 468 feet, and had five RBIs, while Jesus Luzardo threw six innings for Miami. Soler's second homer landed near the same area as his first.

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Chism Jr. cf	2	3	1	0	.227
Soler dh	4	2	2	5	.234
Arraez 2b	4	0	1	1	.408
De La Cruz lf	4	0	1	0	.256
Sánchez rf	4	0	2	0	.281
Gurriel 1b	4	0	0	0	.256
Wendle ss	4	0	0	0	.063
Fortes c	4	0	0	0	.200
Berti 3b	4	1	2	0	.275
Totals	**34**	**6**	**9**	**6**	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Marte 2b	5	0	1	0	.262
Rivera dh	3	0	0	0	.371
a-Smith dh	2	0	1	0	.281
Gurriel Jr. lf	5	0	1	0	.305
Walker 1b	3	1	0	0	.282
Longoria 3b	4	1	3	1	.229
Carroll cf	4	0	1	0	.299
Ahmed ss	4	0	2	1	.243
Moreno c	3	0	1	0	.315
Fletcher rf	4	0	1	0	.370
Totals	**37**	**2**	**11**	**2**	

Miami	130	020	000 – 6	9	0
Arizona	000	100	010 – 2	11	0

a-struck out for Rivera in the 7th.

Walks–Miami 2: Chisholm Jr. 2. Arizona 2: Walker 1, Moreno 1. **Strikeouts**–Miami 4: Soler 1, De La Cruz 1, Sánchez 1, Wendle 1. Arizona 7: Marte 1, Rivera 1, Smith 1, Gurriel Jr. 2, Walker 1, Fletcher 1.

LOB–Miami 3, Arizona 10. **2B**–Sánchez 2 (8), Berti (5), Longoria (3), Marte (8). **HR**–Soler 2 (9), off Pfaadt; Longoria (4), off Barnes. **RBIs**–Arraez (13), Soler 5 (20), Ahmed (9), Longoria (7). **SB**–Chisholm Jr. 2 (13). **CS**–Berti (3).
Runners left in scoring position–Miami 3 (Gurriel 3); Arizona 5 (Ahmed, Rivera, Fletcher 3). **RISP**–Miami 3 for 6; Arizona 2 for 9.
Runners moved up–Carroll, Marte. **GIDP**–Sánchez, Gurriel Jr..
DP–Miami 1 (Arraez, Gurriel); Arizona 1 (Marte, Ahmed, Walker).

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Luzardo, W, 3-2	6	7	1	1	2	5	104	3.38
Brazoban	1	0	0	0	0	2	10	2.05
Barnes	1	2	1	1	0	0	20	3.94
Floro	1	2	0	0	0	0	13	1.72
Arizona	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Pfaadt, L, 0-1	5	7	6	6	2	3	88	12.10
Ginkel	2⅔	1	0	0	0	1	34	3.86
McGough	1⅓	1	0	0	0	0	18	5.40

Inherited runners-scored–McGough 1-0.
U–Shane Livensparger, Dan Bellino, Phil Cuzzi, Mark Ripperger.
T–2:29. **Tickets sold**–13,608 (48,359).

ASTROS 3, ANGELS 1

Streak	Lost 1	**This month**	5-3
Home	10-8	**Road**	10-9
Division	9-6	**Interleague**	6-3

Next: Today vs. Houston, Angel Stadium, 1 p.m.
TV/Radio: Bally Sports West/830

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Dubón 2b	3	0	1	0	.287
1-Hnsly 2b	1	1	1	0	.152
Bregman 3b	4	0	2	0	.213
Alvarez dh	3	0	1	1	.284
J.Abreu 1b	4	0	0	0	.218
Tucker rf	3	0	0	0	.264
Peña ss	4	0	1	0	.239
Julks lf	4	0	0	0	.261
Meyers cf	3	1	0	0	.250
Mldndo c	4	1	1	2	.175
Totals	**33**	**3**	**7**	**3**	

Angels	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Ohtani p-dh	3	0	0	0	.294
Ward lf	4	0	0	0	.241
Trout cf	4	0	1	0	.289
Rendon 3b	4	0	0	0	.283
Renfroe rf	4	0	0	0	.246
Drury 2b	3	0	0	0	.231
Urshela 1b	3	0	1	0	.303
Okey c	2	0	0	0	.000
a-Rengifo	1	0	0	0	.209
Thaiss c	0	0	0	0	.310
Neto ss	3	1	1	1	.244
Totals	**31**	**1**	**3**	**1**	

Houston	000	030	000 – 3	7	2
Angels	001	000	000 – 1	3	1

a-flied out for Okey in the 7th. 1-ran for Dubón in the 5th.

Walks–Houston 2: Alvarez 1, Meyers 1.
Strikeouts–Houston 8: Dubón 1, J.Abreu 1, Peña 1, Julks 1, Meyers 2, Maldonado 2. Angels 14: Ohtani 1, Ward 2, Trout 2, Rendon 2, Renfroe 3, Drury 1, Okey 2, Neto 1.
E–Hensley (1), Maldonado (2), Okey (1). **LOB**–Houston 6, Angels 4. **HR**–Maldonado (2), off Ohtani; Neto (1), off Valdez. **RBIs**–Maldonado 2 (6), Alvarez (33), Neto (8). **SB**–Julks (3), Meyers (1). **CS**–Peña (3).
Runners left in scoring position–Houston 3 (Meyers, Tucker 2); Angels 1 (Rendon). **RISP**–Houston 2 for 5; Angels 0 for 1.
Runners moved up–J.Abreu. **GIDP**–Bregman.
DP–Angels 1 (Drury, Neto, Urshela).

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Valdez, W, 3-4	8	3	1	1	0	12	99	2.38
Pressly, S, 5-5	1	0	0	0	0	2	10	3.14
Angels	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Ohtani, L, 4-1	7	6	3	3	2	7	103	2.74
Wantz	2	1	0	0	0	1	27	0.59

WP–Ohtani.
U–John Libka, Edwin Jimenez, James Hoye, D.J. Reyburn. **T**–2:16. **Tickets sold**–29,018 (45,517).

REDS 7, METS 6

Despite a season-high four homers, New York lost for the 12th time in 15 games and saw manager Buck Showalter ejected. Jonathan India drove in three runs for Cincinnati.

New York	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Nimmo cf	4	1	0	0	.300
Lindor ss	5	1	2	2	.224
McNeil 2b	4	0	0	0	.280
Alonso 1b	3	1	1	1	.237
Baty 3b	3	1	0	0	.271
Marte rf	4	0	2	0	.223
Vglbch dh	2	0	0	0	.257
Canha lf	3	0	0	0	.216
a-Gillrme 2b	1	0	0	0	.231
Álvarez c	4	2	2	2	.241
Totals	**33**	**6**	**7**	**5**	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
India 2b	3	0	1	3	.307
Senzel 3b	5	1	2	1	.268
Steer 1b	2	0	0	0	.252
Casali c	0	0	0	0	.188
Stphnsn dh	4	0	1	1	.254
Fairchild lf	4	0	1	0	.197
Myers rf-1b	4	1	1	0	.215
Newman ss	3	2	1	0	.229
Friedl cf	4	2	2	2	.325
Maile c	2	1	1	0	.296
b-Fraley rf	1	0	0	0	.236
Totals	**32**	**7**	**10**	**7**	

New York	001	001	220 – 6	7	0
Cincinnati	120	130	00x – 7	10	0

a-struck out for Canha in the 8th. b-struck out for Maile in the 8th.

Walks–New York 4: Alonso 1, Baty 1, Vogelbach 2. Cincinnati 4: Steer 3, Newman 1. **Strikeouts**–New York 5: Nimmo 1, McNeil 1, Marte 1, Guillorme 1, Álvarez 1. Cincinnati 9: India 1, Senzel 2, Stephenson 1, Fairchild 1, Myers 2, Maile 1, Fraley 1. **LOB**–New York 5, Cincinnati 8. **2B**–Senzel (3), Maile (1), India (11). **3B**–Friedl (3). **HR**–Álvarez 2 (3), off Weaver; Alonso (12), off Weaver; Lindor (6), off Young. **RBIs**–Álvarez 2 (6), Alonso (30), Lindor 2 (27), Stephenson (13), India 3 (17), Senzel (14), Friedl 2 (18). **SB**–Friedl (4). **CS**–Steer (2). **SF**–India. **DP**–New York 1 (Álvarez, McNeil, Álvarez); Cincinnati 1 (Newman, India, Steer).

New York	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Peterson, L, 1-5	3⅓	7	4	4	2	4	87	7.68
Nogosek	1⅓	3	3	3	1	2	41	4.85
Brigham	1	0	0	0	1	2	16	3.27
Ottavino	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	3.46
Smith	1	0	0	0	0	1	26	1.93
Cincinnati	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Weaver, W, 1-2	6	4	4	4	1	2	82	7.36
Law	1	1	0	0	1	0	17	3.00
Young, H, 4	⅓	1	2	2	0	0	11	3.38
Sims, H, 2	⅓	1	0	0	1	0	13	0.00
Díaz, S, 7-7	1⅓	0	0	0	1	3	23	2.19

HBP–Nogosek (Maile), Young (Nimmo), Smith (India).
WP–Peterson.
U–Bruce Dreckman, Stu Scheuwater, Malachi Moore, Mark Wegner. **T**–2:56. **Tickets sold**–14,065 (43,891).

WHITE SOX 4, ROYALS 2

Andrew Vaughn's two-run homer in the sixth inning broke a 1-1 tie and lifted Chicago. Lucas Giolito (2-2) gave up two runs on five hits over six innings in a game delayed by rain for two hours.

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Benintendi lf	4	0	0	0	.262
Vaughn 1b	4	1	1	2	.246
Robert Jr. cf	4	1	1	1	.261
Sheets rf	3	0	1	0	.264
Haseley rf	1	0	0	0	.364
Grandal dh	4	0	0	0	.257
Alberto 3b	4	1	1	0	.273
Andrus ss	3	0	0	0	.203
Zavala c	3	0	1	1	.170
Sosa 2b	3	1	1	0	.143
Totals	**33**	**4**	**6**	**4**	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Witt Jr. ss	4	1	1	0	.240
Psqntino 1b	4	1	2	2	.287
Perez dh	4	0	0	0	.282
Garcia 2b	3	0	0	0	.267
Melendez rf	3	0	1	0	.211
Dozier 3b	3	0	1	0	.183
a-Pratto	1	0	0	0	.349
Fermin c	4	0	0	0	.263
Bradley Jr. cf	3	0	0	0	.194
Eaton lf	3	0	0	0	.031
Totals	**32**	**2**	**5**	**2**	

Chicago	000	102

Lakers know defending champions won't go quietly

HELENE ELLIOTT

The Lakers' first attempt to close out a playoff series on their first try didn't go so well.

With a chance to wrap up their opening-round series against the Grizzlies in a tidy five games, they went to Memphis and lost by 17, costing themselves a few precious days of rest. "We didn't play up to our abilities," LeBron James said.

They apparently learned from that experience, because they came home to Crypto.com Arena and demolished the No. 2-seeded Grizzlies by 40 points two days later to complete a six-game upset that really wasn't so surprising.

Having earned another chance to close out a series by gritting out a 104-101 victory over defending champion Golden State on Monday, the Lakers must seize the moment and deliver a knockout punch when the series resumes Wednesday with Game 5 at Chase Center in San Francisco.

It will be their toughest challenge in a season full of tests. The Lakers can't count on the Warriors imploding under pressure, like the Grizzlies did. They can't expect the Warriors, who won NBA titles in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2022 and lost in the finals in 2016 and 2019, to find the moment too big for them to handle, as the Grizzlies so clearly did.

"It's going to be a tough one going up north. That game on Wednesday is going to be another dogfight," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said Monday. "We can expect another dogfight. That's a prideful team. They're the defending champions for a reason, so all of us are going to have to make sure we're on the same page and locked in."

LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

ROLE PLAYERS like Austin Reaves, shown hitting a three-point shot in the Game 4 win over Golden State, are a big reason the Lakers can close out the series on Wednesday. In Game 4, Reaves scored 21 points.

The Lakers have overcome some imposing challenges, starting with bouncing back from a seemingly hopeless 2-10 start and continuing to adapt after general manager Rob Pelinka essentially remade their roster before the trade deadline.

Reinvigorated and reinforced defensively, they navigated the play-in game against Minnesota, then sent the brash Grizzlies home. Against the Warriors, they've been able to weather players' game-to-game shooting slumps and have coaxed enormous and timely contributions out of role players like Austin Reaves, Dennis Schroder, Rui Hachimura and Lonnie Walker IV.

In Game 4 against Golden State, Walker provided a jolt of adrenaline by scoring all of his 15 points in the fourth quarter. He hadn't taken a shot before that.

"A lot of times that's what the playoffs are about. A close game and somebody comes in who you don't expect to make an impact and that player makes a bunch of shots, makes some big plays," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said.

The Warriors have been down 3-1 before during their run of playoff success. They trailed Oklahoma City by that margin during the 2016 Western Conference finals but rallied to win — only to go ahead 3-1 over the James-led Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA Finals before losing. So this isn't new to them.

Asked Monday if the team's predicament felt like the 2016 situation, Kerr was philosophical.

"It feels like what it is," said Kerr, whose team lost its first two games against Sacramento in the first round but advanced by winning a Game 7 on the road. "Go home and you take care of business and you get a win and the momentum is right back in your favor. That's all it is. Somebody has to win four times. That's why you play it out.

"The Lakers did a great job of holding serve here and winning this game and coming back in the fourth quarter to take it. So now we've got to go back and get a win at home."

Warriors guard Gary Payton II, who started in place of JaMychal Green and scored 15 points, said his team will draw on its comeback against Sacramento.

"We've got a lot of heart on this team. A lot of fight," he said. "Back against the wall. We've got to come out swinging."

James, who had 27 points, nine rebounds and six assists in nearly 43 minutes Monday, said the Lakers still are discovering what they're capable of as a team. It sounds odd to hear that at this stage of the season, but he's right. Injuries and their roster makeover kept the Lakers from knowing whether they could be a cohesive and successful team until they simply went out and became one.

"Every game for us is another opportunity to experience something that we just haven't had as a group. We're a relatively young group," he said. "You look at the teams in the postseason besides us: You got Phoenix, they added a couple new guys, but their team has kind of been assembled for the last few years, obviously Denver's been together for years, Miami, New York, Golden State. So every game for us throughout this postseason has been an opportunity for us to grow and see how we can be better.

"[Monday] was another moment and whatever we play, every other day, I don't even know what today is, but whenever Game 5 is, it'll be another opportunity for us to continue to grow as a ballclub. So I think we'll be ready."

But not overconfident.

"One thing about when you play Golden State, you don't have an opportunity to relax. You just don't," James said. "So I'm not worried about us going in there comfortable. You just can't do it versus Golden State. It's not possible."

Schroder had a good suggestion for the Lakers' approach to this golden opportunity. "We've got to go out in Game 5 and play like we're down 0-3 and try to secure that win," he said, "and hopefully we get it."

They've learned a lot about themselves so far, nearly all of it good. Now, they'll discover whether they have a champion's instinct and can end this series on their first try. Giving the Warriors a second chance could be a mistake.

Walker embraces chance to shine

[**Plaschke,** from B10]

him," LeBron James said.

The 15 points by Walker in the quarter were more than the rest of the Lakers combined, only two fewer than the Warriors scored, and summoned the most emotional Lakers postgame celebration of the playoffs.

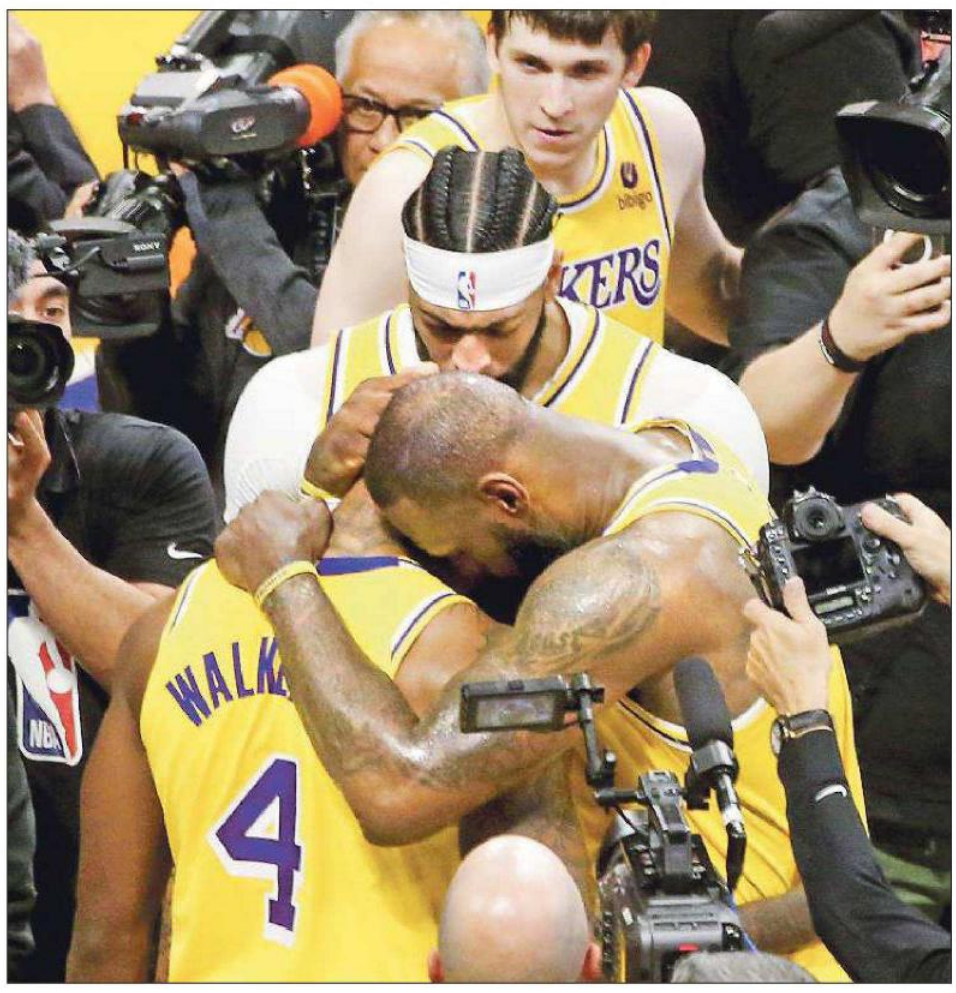
When the final buzzer sounded, James and Anthony Davis walked purposefully through the falling purple-and-gold streamers to meet Walker near midcourt. The two superstars then surrounded the unlikely star with hugs and whispers of admiration.

"Just telling him, this is what he was built for, the moment he's been waiting for, and he shined," Davis recounted. "He always stayed mentally prepared and physically prepared to check in. ... He's always supporting us, whether he's playing or not. ... It was a big-time performance for him tonight. So we just wanted to embrace him and let him know that."

Walker heard them. He understood them. Before Game 3, he had played all of 28 minutes combined in eight playoff games. He had been benched for the entirety of one of those games.

He played 25 minutes in Game 3 because coach Darvin Ham was looking for some scoring, and Walker responded with a dozen points, but he was still far out of the rotation. It was a place he had been since the middle of the season, when he missed about a month because of a knee injury and then lost his spot with the emergence of Austin Reaves and the acquisitions of Rui Hachimura and D'Angelo Russell.

His teammates will tell you that, in terms of lost playing time, no Laker has had a more difficult time than Walker. They also will tell you that no Laker has stayed more positive and energetic and industrious in the wake of such hopelessness.



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

LAKERS PLAYERS LeBron James and Anthony Davis give Lonnie Walker IV some love as Austin Reaves stands nearby after a 104-101 win over the Warriors.

"If we should be happy for anyone, it's him," Troy Brown Jr. said.

So, yeah, when Davis and James approached Walker and thanked him in the sweaty epilogue to Monday's masterpiece, he knew exactly what they were talking about.

He said the two superstars thanked him for "being a true pro ... weathering the storm, learning how to dance in the storm. I got injured, fell out of the lineup, fell out of playing, I stuck with it, stayed in the gym ... just being a professional."

Their gesture, he said, was a simple but heartfelt one.

"It was just to give me gratitude on how hard it is to do what I done did," he said.

The Lakers also have done something worthy of an embrace.

They have forged a seemingly insurmountable lead against the defending NBA champions as the series moves back to San Francisco for Game 5 on Wednesday night.

Honestly, do you think the Warriors can beat the Lakers three straight times?

Including once at Crypto.com Arena, where the Lakers have won eight straight games?

The Warriors haven't shown a consistent ability to stop Davis, who had 23 points and 15 rebounds Monday night. They haven't been able to tire out James, who scored 27 points and directed every bit of fourth-quarter traffic.

And, in the most important moment of their most desperate game, they just couldn't figure out the Lakers' defense, which held them to 17 points in the fourth quarter and swarmed their shooters such that Klay Thompson made only three baskets and Stephen Curry, despite scoring 31, missed the last two shots of the game with Davis hovering nearby.

Golden State seemingly is cooked. This series feels essentially over. But then again ...

"One thing about when you play Golden State, you don't have an opportunity to relax, you just don't," James said.

It nonetheless will take some real magic for the Warriors to survive this. And, as the hoarse hallelujahs from their fans illustrated, the Lakers have new magic of their own.

Illustrating the unlikeliness of his stardom, when Walker walked to his car after the win, he did so virtually alone. There was no bodyguard. There were no business associates. His exit was followed by just a single camera. Just as he once wallowed in the shadows, he ended his biggest night in those same shadows.

But, man, for 12 incredible minutes, that light ...

"That karma, that good, productive, positive karma, it's real," Ham said. "Whatever you put out goes full circle. It's either going to come back and slap you in the face or come back and hug you."

And all the selfless support that forgotten Lonnie Walker IV has given this team?

"The energy he put out, it came back and hugged him," Ham said. "Damn, it hugged us."

Lakers will seek closeout defense

[**Lakers,** from B10]

specialists in Curry and Klay Thompson who always seem a swish away from catching fire.

Jordan Poole, who has struggled since the end of Game 1, had two 40-point games this season.

They've got experience with forward Draymond Green and coach Steve Kerr giving advice on the sideline, and, probably most importantly, they've got two more home games if the series reaches seven games.

"You definitely draw on those experiences," Kerr told reporters Tuesday. "... For me and what I shared with the team and what they shared with each other, the vets, is that game to game, everything changes. You just focus on the next game. ... And when you do that, the momentum shifts in your favor."

James said the Lakers have been improving throughout the playoffs. They led 3-1 against the Memphis Grizzlies in the first round, and although the Lakers were routed in Game 5, the team responded with a massive effort in Game 6.

This round, James said, he believes the Lakers' intensity in their first potential closeout game needs to be much higher.

"We'll be ready. One thing about when you play Golden State, you don't have an opportunity to relax. You just don't," James said after Game 4. "So I'm not worried about us going in there comfortable. You just can't do it versus Golden State. It's not possible."

The Lakers could have stumbled into some motivation.

Although the first four games have been devoid of off-court controversy, Kerr used his postgame news conference and his media availability Tuesday to talk about the Lakers and their flopping.

"I give the Lakers credit for the plays they've been able to sell," Kerr told reporters Tuesday.

The Warriors were called for three illegal screens in the fourth quarter of Game 4, with Kerr particularly upset for one called on Green with Lonnie Walker IV sliding into the courtside seats after the contact.

"Really, really a tough call for us," Kerr said Tuesday. "It's a blatant flop."

Regardless, the series, for the first time since it began in San Francisco last week, can come to an end, the Lakers having a chance to be the first Western Conference team to eliminate a Kerr-coached Warriors team in the playoffs.

It will take just one more victory — one more night of wins, one more night of stops. The Lakers have done it three times. Now they have up to three chances to do it again.

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

THE LAKERS' LeBron James knows Klay Thompson and Golden State won't be an easy out in Game 5.

NBA ROUNDUP

Embiid, 76ers roll for a 3-2 lead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Having silenced the TD Garden crowd and put the defending Eastern Conference champion Boston Celtics on the brink of a second-round exit, the Philadelphia 76ers barely cracked a smile as they walked off the court.

"It's not over. We have to get one more," star center Joel Embiid said. "All of us. We have to show up."

They soon will get that chance.

Embiid scored 33 points, and Philadelphia easily took a 3-2 lead in the East semifinals, beating Boston 115-103 on Tuesday night.

The 76ers led by 21 points in the fourth quarter as home fans booed the Celtics. Philadelphia can close out the series and advance to the conference finals when it hosts Game 6 on Thursday night. The 76ers haven't reached that stage of the playoffs since 2001.

"What we did tonight, it's easier said than done, but we have to do it again," Embiid said.

It was the third consecutive 30-point game in the series for the reigning NBA most valuable player, who used his full array of offensive weapons to pick apart the Celtics' defense. He also had seven rebounds, four blocked shots and three three-pointers.

Tyrese Maxey added 30 points and six three-pointers. James Harden finished with 17 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

Jayson Tatum led Boston with 36 points but was just 11 for 27 from the field. Jaylen Brown finished with 24 points. The Celtics went 12 for 38 from beyond the three-point arc.

"We just didn't have it today," Tatum said.

Denver 118, Phoenix 102: Nikola Jokic had 29 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists for his 10th career playoff triple-double, breaking a tie with Wilt Chamberlain for most by a center in NBA history, and the Nuggets took a 3-2 series lead.

All-defensive teams

Defensive player of the year Jaren Jackson Jr. of Memphis and Milwaukee's Jrue Holiday and Brook Lopez headlined the NBA's all-defensive first team. Also voted to the first team were Cleveland forward Evan Mobley and Chicago guard Alex Caruso.

CHARLES KRUPA Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA'S PAUL REED battles Boston's Marcus Smart, left, and Jayson Tatum for the ball. The 76ers took the series lead with a 115-103 road win.

76ers 115, Celtics 103

PHILADELPHIA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Harris	30	7-10	1-2	2-11	1	5	16
Tucker	33	1-4	0-0	1-7	1	4	3
Embiid	37	10-23	10-11	3-7	3	3	33
Harden	39	4-8	8-10	0-8	10	2	17
Maxey	41	10-21	4-4	1-7	3	2	30
Melton	23	2-4	0-0	2-4	1	3	4
House Jr.	15	5-7	0-0	0-5	1	3	10
Niang	11	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Reed	6	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	2
Milton	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**40-79**	**23-27**	**9-49**	**20**	**24**	**115**

Shooting: Field goals, 50.6%; free throws, 85.2%

Three-point goals: 12-30 (Maxey 6-12, Embiid 3-7, Harden 1-2, Harris 1-3, Tucker 1-3, Melton 0-1, House Jr. 0-2). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: 4. Blocked Shots: 5 (Embiid 4, Melton). Turnovers: 9 (Embiid 4, Harden 2, Harris, Maxey, Milton). Steals: 4 (Harden 2, Melton, Reed). Technical Fouls: coach Dan Burke, 6:50 second.

BOSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brown	34	9-16	3-8	0-6	2	5	24
Tatum	39	11-27	11-13	3-10	5	2	36
Horford	25	0-7	0-0	2-5	4	2	0
Smart	33	2-7	8-10	1-3	4	1	14
White	33	2-6	3-3	2-5	0	1	7
Brogdon	25	3-9	0-0	0-3	4	0	7
Williams III	18	2-3	0-0	1-2	0	2	4
Pritchard	9	3-5	0-0	0-1	1	0	8
Williams	8	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	2	0
Hauser	3	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	3
Kornet	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Muscala	3	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Totals		**33-83**	**25-34**	**9-36**	**21**	**16**	**103**

Shooting: Field goals, 39.8%; free throws, 73.5%

Three-point goals: 12-38 (Brown 3-6, Tatum 3-11, Pritchard 2-2, Smart 2-5, Brogdon 1-2, Hauser 1-2, Williams 0-1, White 0-2, Horford 0-7). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 1 (Horford). Turnovers: 8 (Brown 3, Smart 2, Tatum 2, Horford). Steals: 4 (Horford 2, Tatum 2). Technical Fouls: None.

Philadelphia	**33**	**25**	**30**	**27—115**
Boston	**26**	**23**	**23**	**31—103**

A—19,156. T—2:25.

Nuggets 118, Suns 102

PHOENIX

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Durant	41	10-24	6-9	2-11	7	4	26
Okogie	8	0-3	1-2	0-0	1	1	1
Ayton	31	7-12	0-0	4-9	1	3	14
Booker	40	8-19	8-9	0-6	4	4	28
Payne	30	3-5	0-0	0-2	4	2	7
Shamet	23	2-6	1-2	0-5	3	4	6
Ross	20	3-4	0-0	0-3	1	2	9
Landale	16	2-4	1-2	0-4	0	1	5
Warren	14	2-7	0-0	1-1	0	0	4
Craig	4	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	2
Lee	4	0-1	0-0	1-1	1	0	0
Wainright	4	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**38-88**	**17-24**	**8-42**	**22**	**22**	**102**

Shooting: Field goals, 43.2%; free throws, 70.8%

Three-point goals: 9-27 (Booker 4-7, Ross 3-4, Payne 1-3, Shamet 1-3, Craig 0-1, Lee 0-1, Wainright 0-1, Okogie 0-2, Warren 0-2, Durant 0-3). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 7 (Warren 2, Ayton, Craig, Durant, Ross, Shamet). Turnovers: 10 (Durant 5, Booker 2, Payne 2, Ayton). Steals: 6 (Ayton 2, Craig, Payne, Ross, Warren). Technical Fouls: Durant, 00:37 third.

DENVER

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Gordon	35	4-13	1-4	3-6	6	1	10
Porter Jr.	27	7-11	0-0	0-8	2	2	19
Jokic	37	12-20	3-5	4-13	12	3	29
Caldwell-Pope	26	1-6	4-4	2-7	3	2	7
Murray	36	7-15	3-3	0-5	6	1	19
Brown	26	7-11	9-10	1-5	1	1	25
Braun	19	2-3	1-2	0-2	0	2	5
Green	15	2-4	0-0	0-2	2	3	4
Jackson	3	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Watson	3	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Cancar	2	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Smith	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Nnaji	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**42-85**	**21-28**	**10-50**	**32**	**17**	**118**

Shooting: Field goals, 49.4%; free throws, 75.0%

Three-point goals: 13-27 (Porter Jr. 5-8, Jokic 2-3, Brown 2-4, Murray 2-4, Gordon 1-2, Caldwell-Pope 1-3, Cancar 0-1, Green 0-2). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 6 (Caldwell-Pope 2, Gordon 2, Jokic 2). Turnovers: 10 (Jokic 4, Braun 2, Murray 2, Brown, Watson). Steals: 6 (Braun, Brown, Caldwell-Pope, Jokic, Murray, Porter Jr.). Technical Fouls: Murray, 10:03 third

Phoenix	**24**	**25**	**25**	**28—102**
Denver	**35**	**17**	**39**	**27—118**

A—19,773. T—NA.

NBA PLAYOFF SCHEDULE SEMIFINALS

WESTERN CONFERENCE

1 Denver vs. 4 Phoenix

Nuggets lead series 3-2

Gm 1	Denver 125, Phoenix 107
Gm 2	Denver 97, Phoenix 87
Gm 3	Phoenix 121, Denver 114
Gm 4	Phoenix 129, Denver 124
Gm 5	Denver 118, Phoenix 102
Gm 6	Thursday at Phoenix, 7
Gm 7	Sunday at Denver, TBD*

6 Golden State vs. 7 LAKERS

Lakers lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Lakers 117, Golden St. 112
Gm 2	G. State 127, Lakers 100
Gm 3	Lakers 127, Golden St. 97
Gm 4	Lakers 104, Golden St. 101
Gm 5	Tonight at Golden State, 7
Gm 6	Friday at Lakers, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Golden St., TBD*

All times p.m., PDT unless noted

EASTERN CONFERENCE

2 Boston vs. 3 Philadelphia

76ers lead series 3-2

Gm 1	Phila. 119, Boston 115
Gm 2	Boston 121, Philadelphia 87
Gm 3	Boston 114, Phila. 102
Gm 4	Phila. 116, Boston 115 (OT)
Gm 5	Phila. 115, Boston 103
Gm 6	Thursday at Phila., 4:30
Gm 7	Sunday at Boston, TBD*

5 New York vs. 8 Miami

Heat lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Miami 108, New York 101
Gm 2	New York 111, Miami 105
Gm 3	Miami 105, New York 86
Gm 4	Miami 109, New York 101
Gm 5	Today at New York, 4:30
Gm 6	Friday at Miami, TBD*
Gm 7	Monday at New York, 5*

* if necessary

PRO CALENDAR

	WED 10	THU 11	FRI 12	SAT 13	SUN 14
DODGERS	**at Milwaukee** 10:30 a.m. SNLA		**SAN DIEGO** 7 SNLA	**SAN DIEGO** 4 Ch. 11	**SAN DIEGO** 1 SNLA
ANGELS	**HOUSTON** 1 BSW		**at Cleveland** 4 BSW	**at Cleveland** 3 BSW	**at Cleveland** 8:30 a.m. BSW
LAKERS	**at Golden State*** 7 TNT		**GOLDEN ST.*** TBD (if necessary)		**at Golden State*** TBD (if necessary)
GALAXY	**SEATTLE**** 7:30				**SAN JOSE** 6:30 FS1, Apple TV
LAFC				**at Salt Lake** 6:30 Apple TV	
ANGEL CITY				**WASH.** 7 Paramount+	

Shade denotes home game. *NBA playoffs **US Open Cup

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASEBALL		
10:15 a.m.	Detroit at Cleveland	**TV:** MLB
10:30 a.m.	Dodgers at Milwaukee	**TV:** SNLA **R:** 570, 1020
1 p.m.	Houston at Angels	**TV:** BSW **R:** 830
4:15 p.m.	Boston at Atlanta	**TV:** MLB
BASKETBALL: NBA PLAYOFFS, SECOND ROUND		
4:30 p.m.	Miami at New York, Game 5	**TV:** TNT
7 p.m.	Lakers at Golden State, Game 5	**TV:** TNT **R:** 710, 1330
COLLEGE GOLF		
1:30 p.m.	PGA Works Championship, final round	**TV:** Golf
COLLEGE SOFTBALL: CONFERENCE TOURNAMENTS		
8 a.m.	Southeastern, Mississippi vs. Louisiana State	**TV:** SEC
9 a.m.	Big Ten, Rutgers vs. Ohio State	**TV:** Big Ten
10:30 a.m.	Southeastern, South Carolina vs. Texas A&M	**TV:** SEC
11:30 a.m.	Big Ten, Michigan vs, Penn State	**TV:** Big Ten
12:30 p.m.	ACC, Georgia Tech vs. Notre Dame	**TV:** ACC
2 p.m.	Southeastern, Alabama vs. Missouri	**TV:** SEC
2:30 p.m.	Big Ten, Iowa vs. Maryland	**TV:** Big Ten
4:30 p.m.	Southeastern, Kentucky vs. Florida	**TV:** SEC
5 p.m.	Big Ten, Illinois vs. Wisconsin	**TV:** Big Ten
6 p.m.	Pac-12, Arizona State vs. Arizona	**TV:** Pac-12, Pac-12LA
HOCKEY: STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS, SECOND ROUND		
4 p.m.	Toronto at Florida, Game 4	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
7 p.m.	Vegas at Edmonton, Game 4	**TV:** ESPN
PREP LACROSSE		
2 p.m.	Chaminade (N.Y.) at St. Anthony's (N.Y.)	**TV:** ESPNU
SOCCER		
9 a.m.	CONCACAF Beach Championship, Trinidad & Tobago vs. Dominican Republic	**TV:** FS2
10:30 a.m.	CONCACAF Beach Championship, U.S. vs. Panama	**TV:** FS2
Noon	UEFA Champions League, Inter Milan vs. AS Milan	**TV:** 2, KMEX, TUDN, Univision **R:** 1330
Noon	CONCACAF Beach Championshup, Guadeloupe vs. Turks and Caicos Islands	**TV:** FS2
4:30 p.m.	NWSL Challenge Cup, Orlando at Washington	**TV:** CBSSN
TENNIS		
5 a.m.	Italian Open, early rounds	**TV:** BSW, Tennis
10 a.m.	Italian Open, early rounds	**TV:** Tennis

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Crum, a Wooden disciple who thrived at Louisville, dies

WIRE REPORTS

Denny Crum, who won two NCAA men's basketball titles at Louisville in a Hall of Fame coaching career, died Tuesday. He was 86.

The school announced Crum's death in a release. Crum had battled an extended illness.

Crum retired in 2001 after 30 seasons at Louisville with 675 wins and national championships in 1980 and 1986.

He was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in May 1994, with the legendary **John Wooden**, his college coach at UCLA and longtime mentor, at his side.

UCLA mourned Crum in a news release that noted his 1990 induction into its athletics Hall of Fame and achievements as a Bruins player and assistant coach.

A native of San Fernando, Crum played guard for two seasons at Pierce Junior College before transferring to UCLA in 1956.

He briefly served as a graduate assistant to Wooden before coaching Pierce in the mid-1960s. Wooden hired Crum as his assistant and chief recruiter in 1968, and the Bruins went 86-4 and won three NCAA titles before Crum was hired as Louisville's coach in 1971.

Clemson is adding four basketball transfers: guards **Joseph Girard III** (Syracuse) and **Jake Heidbreder** (Air Force) and forwards **Jack Clark** (North Carolina State) and **Bas Leyte** (North Carolina Greensboro). ... Former Howard guard **Eljiah Hawkins** is transferring to Minnesota. ... The Big East hired Southeastern Conference administrator **Dan Leibovitz** as senior associate commissioner for men's basketball, replacing **Stu Jackson**. Jackson became the West Coast Conference's commissioner.

TENNIS RESULTS

$8.5-MILLION ITALIAN OPEN
At Rome
Surface: Red clay

WOMEN'S SINGLES (first round)—Anna Blinkova, Russia, d. Mayar Sherif, Egypt, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3; Barbora Strycova, Czech Republic, d. Maryna Zanevska, Belgium, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3; Nuria Parrizas Diaz, Spain, d. Jule Niemeier, Germany, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; Linda Noskova, Czech Republic, d. Shelby Rogers, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; Wang Xiyu, China, d. Lucrezia Stefanini, Italy, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (2); Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, d. Kaia Kanepi, Estonia, 6-0, 4-6, 6-2; Lisa Pigato, Italy, d. Diletta Cherubini, Italy, 7-5, 2-6, 6-3; Anett Kontaveit, Estonia, d. Alycia Parks, 6-1, 6-1; Jasmine Paolini, Italy, d. Wang Xinyu, China, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-2; Sofia Kenin, d. Cristina Bucsa, Spain, 6-3, 6-7 (8), 7-5; Caty McNally d. Dalila Spiteri, Italy, 6-0, 6-1; Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, d. Leylah Annie Fernandez, Canada, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-3.

ETC.

Ex-Cal, Vikings star Kapp dies

Joe Kapp, the hard-nosed quarterback who led the Minnesota Vikings to their first Super Bowl appearance, in the 1969 season, and California to its last Rose Bowl berth, in the 1959 game, died. He was 85.

Cal confirmed that Kapp died Monday. He had suffered from Alzheimer's disease for the last 15 years, his son **J.J. Kapp** said.

Kapp was a four-sport athlete at Hart High in Newhall. APPRECIATION, B1

Georgia's national championship football team is declining an invitation to a White House event June 12, citing a scheduling conflict.

Wichita State infielder **Sydney McKinney** was the No. 1 pick in the Athletes Unlimited softball draft and heads the 14 players invited to play in the AUX and Championship seasons. UCLA pitcher **Megan Faraimo** was drafted second.

Former San Diego State punter **Matt Araiza** was not present when an alleged gang rape of a minor occurred at an October 2021 party in San Diego nor was he visible in videos recovered after the incident, which led to a police investigation and a lawsuit by the woman who said she was attacked, according to witness testimony. The testimony was included in evidence that prompted the San Diego district attorney to not press criminal charges against Araiza last year.

ESPN obtained and reviewed audio from a Dec. 7, 2022 meeting during which the details were discussed.

The Miami Dolphins agreed to a one-year deal with tight end **Tyler Kroft**.

Goalkeeper **Eldin Jakupovic** made a save and converted a penalty, lifting LAFC over second-tier Monterey Bay 5-4 in a five-round penalty kick shootout in Seaside, Calif., and on to the round of 16 in the U.S. Cup, the country's oldest soccer competition. The teams were tied 2-2 before penalty kicks decided it.

— KEVIN BAXTER

Real Madrid and visiting Manchester City played to a 1-1 draw in the first leg of a Champions League semifinal. ... **Antonio Carbajal**, a Mexican goalie who became the first player to appear in five World Cups, died at 93.

A judge in Stuart, Fla., appeared skeptical about arguments made by an attorney for star golfer **Tiger Woods'** ex-girlfriend **Erica Herman**, who is trying to invalidate a nondisclosure agreement that would require the legal disputes between the two to be decided privately by an arbitrator.

NHL ROUNDUP

Hurricanes continue to blow past the Devils

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Carolina Hurricanes used a five-minute span in the second period to push the New Jersey Devils to the brink of elimination.

Jordan Martinook had a goal and two assists and the Hurricanes scored five times in the middle period to beat the Devils 6-1 on Tuesday night for a 3-1 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinal.

The Hurricanes have outscored New Jersey 17-3 in their three wins.

"The game was decided in a five-minute span and the rest of the game was ehhh," Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour said.

Dallas 6, Seattle 3: Joe Pavelski scored his sixth goal of the series as part of a four-goal second period for Dallas, and the Stars routed Seattle to even the Western Conference semifinal series.

Notes

ESPN "SportsCenter" anchor John Anderson apologized to Zach Whitecloud, a First Nation member in Canada, after comparing the Vegas defenseman's last name to toilet paper. ... Colorado's Gabriel Landeskog is set to undergo cartilage transplant surgery on his right knee.

Hurricanes 6, Devils 1

Carolina	1	5	0	— 6
New Jersey	1	0	0	— 1

FIRST PERIOD: 1. N.J., J.Hughes 6 (Meier), 1:55. 2. Car., Necas 3 (Martinook, Slavin), 17:40. **Penalty**—Haula, N.J. (Delay of Game), 18:57.

SECOND PERIOD: 3. Car., Necas 4 (Staal, Pesce), 7:26. 4. Car., Pesce 2 (Drury, Staal), 9:51. 5. Car., Fast 4 (Chatfield), 11:07. 6. Car., Burns 1 (Martinook, Kotkaniemi), 12:46. 7. Car., Martinook 3 (Burns), 19:36. **Penalties**—Meier, N.J. (Interference), 4:50. Skjei, CAR (Interference), 15:11.

THIRD PERIOD: Scoring—None. **Penalties**—Noesen, CAR (Holding Stick), 4:34. Haula, N.J. (Hooking), 5:55.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Car. 9-10-9—28. N.J. 8-9-5—22. Power-play conversions—Car. 0 of 3. N.J. 0 of 2.

GOALIES: Car., Andersen 4-0-0 (22 shots-21 saves). N.J., Schmid 4-3-0 (11-10), N.J., Vanecek 1-3-0 (17-12). Att—17,016 (16,514). T—2:25.

Stars 6, Seattle 3

Dallas	1	4	1	— 6
Seattle	0	1	2	— 3

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Dal., Benn 2 (Heiskanen, Hintz), 17:13 (pp). **Penalties**—Eberle, SEA (Slashing), 9:03. Lindell, DAL (Interference), 14:58. Dunn, SEA (Slashing), 15:59.

SECOND PERIOD: 2. Dal., Harley 1 (Kiviranta, Domi), 4:46. 3. Dal., Domi 2 (Harley, Hanley), 9:25. 4. Dal., Pavelski 6 (Dadonov, Robertson), 10:50 (pp). 5. Seattle, Schwartz 4 (Geekie, Schultz), 11:46. 6. Dal., Hintz 6 (Benn), 19:07. **Penalties**—Dunn, SEA (Roughing), 5:12. Domi, DAL (Roughing), 5:12. Seattle bench, served by Donato (Delay of Game), 9:25. Hintz, DAL (Slashing), 10:08. Benn, DAL (Roughing), 10:08. Larsson, SEA (Cross Checking), 10:08. McCann, SEA (Roughing), 10:08.

THIRD PERIOD: 7. Seattle, Schwartz 5 (Bjorkstrand, Dunn), 3:24. 8. Seattle, Larsson 1 (Dunn, Beniers), 15:49. 9. Dal., Domi 3 (Lindell, Dadonov), 17:39 (en). **Penalties**—McCann, SEA (Slashing), 8:19. Suter, DAL (Interference), 8:19. Benn, DAL (Delay of Game), 11:07.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Dal. 11-11-4—26. Seattle 5-5-9—19. Power-play conversions—Dal. 2 of 3. Seattle 0 of 2.

GOALIES: Dal., Oettinger 6-4-0 (19 shots-16 saves). Seattle, Grubauer 6-5-0 (22-17), Seattle, Jones 0-0-0 (2-2). Att—17,151 (17,100). T—2:37.

NHL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE SECOND ROUND

WESTERN CONFERENCE

WC1 Seattle vs. C2 Dallas

Series is tied 2-2

Gm 1	Seattle 5, Dallas 4 (OT)
Gm 2	Dallas 4, Seattle 2
Gm 3	Seattle 7, Dallas 2
Gm 4	Dallas 6, Seattle 3
Gm 5	Thursday at Dallas, 6:30
Gm 6	Saturday at Seattle, TBD*
Gm 7	Monday at Dallas, TBD*

P2 Edmonton vs. P1 Vegas

Golden Knights lead series 2-1

Gm 1	Vegas 6, Edmonton 4
Gm 2	Edmonton 5, Vegas 1
Gm 3	Vegas 5, Edmonton 1
Gm 4	Tonight at Edmonton, 7
Gm 5	Friday at Vegas, TBD
Gm 6	Sunday at Edmonton, TBD*
Gm 7	Tuesday at Vegas, TBD*

All times PDT, p.m. unless noted

EASTERN CONFERENCE

A2 Toronto vs. WC2 Florida

Panthers lead series 3-0

Gm 1	Florida 4, Toronto 2
Gm 2	Florida 3, Toronto 2
Gm 3	Florida 3, Toronto 2 (OT)
Gm 4	Today at Florida, 4
Gm 5	Friday at Toronto, TBD*
Gm 6	Sunday at Florida, TBD*
Gm 7	Tuesday at Toronto, TBD*

M1 Carolina vs. M2 New Jersey

Hurricanes lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Carolina 5, New Jersey 1
Gm 2	Carolina 6, New Jersey 1
Gm 3	New Jersey 8, Carolina 4
Gm 4	Carolina 6, New Jersey 1
Gm 5	Thursday at Carolina, 4
Gm 6	Saturday at N.J., TBD*
Gm7	Monday at Carolina, TBD*

* if necessary

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

††

WESTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS :: GAME 5

LAKERS VS. GOLDEN STATE

LAKERS LEAD SERIES 3-1 | TONIGHT AT GOLDEN STATE, 7. TV: TNT

Photographs by ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

LAKERS FORWARD Anthony Davis' tough defense on Warriors guard Stephen Curry late in Game 4 was crucial in L.A.'s 104-101 victory.

Lakers aiming to oust champs

Defensive intensity that was shown at end of Game 4 might be the key to closing out Warriors in Game 5.

BY DAN WOIKE

The best defender in these NBA playoffs, Anthony Davis spread his arms wide as he lowered into a squat. In front of him stood Stephen Curry, a player willing to take the toughest shots and plenty capable of making a bunch.

Here, in the final moments of Game 4 on Monday night in Los Angeles, Davis' feet were quick, his fundamentals sound and his instincts spot on. He didn't bite when Curry faked and jabbed. He didn't lunge or lurch.

He defended.

Curry missed. Not once but twice.

The Lakers beat the Golden State Warriors 104-101.

If one of those fakes worked, if one of those shots wiggled its way through the rim, the Lakers could be tied in the Western Conference semifinals ahead of a pivotal Game 5 on Wednesday night in San Francisco.

Instead, the Lakers have a chance to advance.

Their three-games-to-one lead is a formidable advantage, with only 13 teams in NBA playoff history losing a series from that position. The 1970 Lakers came back from down 3-1 to beat the Phoenix Suns, and the 2006 Suns beat the Lakers after trailing 3-1.

This Warriors core has experienced both sides of 3-1 comebacks, beating the Oklahoma City Thunder in the Western Conference finals in 2016 and losing a 3-1 lead to LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA Finals that year.

The Warriors have all the required threats to orchestrate the comeback.

They've got three-point

[See **Lakers,** B8]

Walker steps out of the shadows, into the spotlight

BILL PLASCHKE

He came out of nowhere.

Benchwarmer. Scrub. Forgotten.

He was a starter at the horrible start of the season, then got tossed aside when the Lakers got good.

Afterthought. Irrelevant. Nobody.

Many sad descriptors accompanied Lonnie Walker IV onto the Crypto.com Arena court at the start of the fourth quarter Monday night, but by the time the game ended, the building was shaking with a new and different one.

Hero.

Hero?

Call it magic, call it karma, just don't call him anonymous, not anymore, Walker riding a blazing shooting streak out of the shadows and into the hot lights of Lakers legend.

"The greatest feeling you could ever, ever imagine," he said.

Not to mention, one of the craziest things Lakers fans could ever, ever imagine.

In a stunning finish and a roaring testament to resilience, after not taking a single shot through three quarters, Walker scored 15 points in the fourth quarter to carry the Lakers to a 104-101 victory over the Golden State Warriors and a three-games-to-one lead in this best-of-seven Western Conference semifinals series.

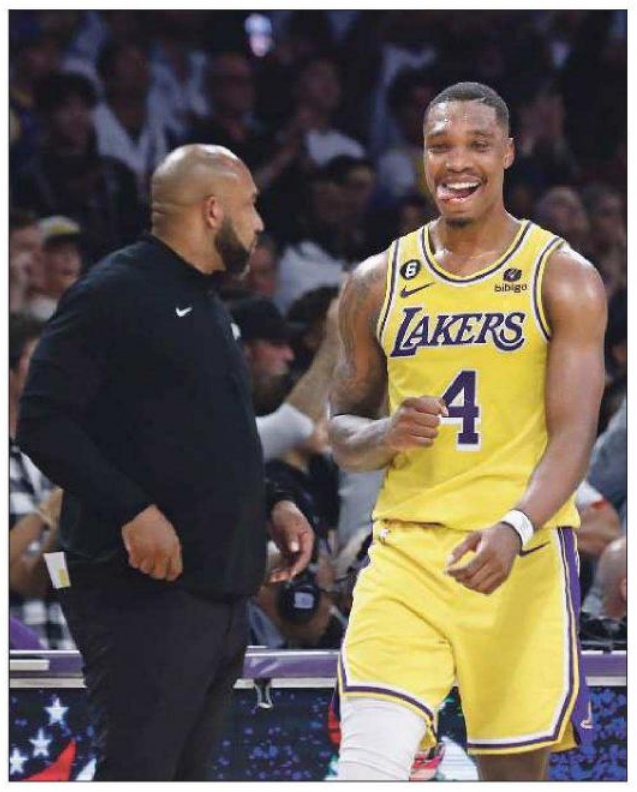
"As a kid, this is something I've been dreaming of doing," Walker said.

He must have dreamed big. As in, capture-a-city-and-fell-a-champion big.

With the Lakers trailing by seven, Walker began the quarter by hitting a trey, put the Lakers in front for good with a jumper in the final two minutes and grabbed the final rebound to clinch it. In between, he made shot after shot while the Warriors could only helplessly watch a guy who they thought they could ignore.

"We don't win without

[See **Plaschke,** B8]



LAKERS GUARD Lonnie Walker IV celebrates in front of coach Darvin Ham during his huge Game 4.

Ohtani bests the Babe, still suffers first loss

He surpasses Ruth's career strikeout total but drops to 4-1 as catcher Okey fills in.

HOUSTON 3, ANGELS 1

BY SARAH VALENZUELA

It took less than two innings for Angels two-way star Shohei Ohtani to surpass another career achievement by Babe Ruth. Yet behind the plate for this milestone was an unfamiliar face.

In the Angels' 3-1 loss to the Houston Astros on Tuesday night at Angel Stadium, Ohtani struck out the 502nd batter of his career, besting the baseball legend Ruth's total as a pitcher. Ohtani fanned Mauricio Dubón in the first inning and Jeremy Peña in the second to reach 502. But it wasn't Max Stassi, Logan O'Hoppe, Chad Wallach or Matt Thaiss catching for the Angels.

It was Chris Okey, a 28-year-old who was drafted in 2016 by the Cincinnati Reds and had spent all but seven games of his professional career in the minor leagues. On Tuesday, Okey played his eighth big league game.

LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

ANGELS PITCHER Shohei Ohtani struck out seven in seven innings, giving him 507 strikeouts for his career. He surpassed Babe Ruth's mark of 501 strikeouts.

Okey started this year at triple-A Salt Lake. The Angels selected his contract Tuesday, needing another catcher after Wallach was put on the seven-day injured list because of concussion symptoms. Manager Phil Nevin said his reason for not starting Thaiss, who has never caught Ohtani, was that Thaiss started the previous two games. Thaiss did play as a late-game substitute Tuesday.

Okey already had a locker in the Angels' clubhouse Monday as part of the taxi squad and found out Tuesday morning that he would be catching Ohtani.

"I was excited," Okey said. "Shohei Ohtani, best player in the game. I wanted to take care of him the best way I could. His name speaks for itself. It was definitely an eye opener."

The pair managed ad-

[See **Angels,** B6]

Syndergaard leaves but relief a cut above

Starting pitcher lasts one inning because of bleeding finger, then bullpen does its part.

DODGERS 6
MILWAUKEE 2

BY MIKE DIGIOVANNA

MILWAUKEE — What the Dodgers called a "cut" on the index finger of Noah Syndergaard's pitching hand looked more like a divot, so large was the chunk of flesh missing from the fingertip of the right-hander on Tuesday night.

Unable to stem the bleeding from the wound, Syndergaard was forced out of what he hoped would be a pivotal start against the Milwaukee Brewers after one inning, leaving the bulk of the game to a bullpen that has been better of late but still not as deep as the Dodgers would like.

Seven relievers were up to the task, Phil Bickford, Justin Bruihl, Yency Almonte, Victor González, Shelby Miller, Brusdar Graterol and Evan Phillips combining to limit the Brewers to two runs and four hits in eight innings of a 6-2 Dodgers victory at American Family Field.

"When we were informed that something's gone wrong with the starter, I think everyone kind of takes ownership of the situation, that it's our responsibility to cover tonight," said Phillips, who got the final out for his sixth save. "Everybody knows it's gonna be a difficult day, but guy after guy came in and picked up the slack."

This was a highly anticipated start for Syndergaard, who was skipped in the rotation last week and given eight days to work on some of the mechanical and mental issues that plagued him in April, when he went 1-3 with a 6.32 earned-run average, the 10th worst among pitchers with at least 30 innings.

A blister that Syndergaard said began to develop on his finger "a couple of weeks ago" may have contributed to some of his recent struggles. Athletic trainers sealed the finger with a topical skin glue be-

[See **Dodgers,** B6]

Los Angeles Times

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 ▫ LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

CANNUPA HANSKA LUGER

CANNUPA Hanska Luger conducts material/light testing in New Mexico. The artist will be part of the Hammer's presentation.

Getty's latest experimental phase

Institution rebrands Pacific Standard Time and invests $17 million in 2024 edition mixing science and art

BY DEBORAH VANKIN

The Getty announced on Tuesday that it has increased its grant investment for organizations to conduct research and develop programming for the next iteration of the art extravaganza Pacific Standard Time: It now stands at $17 million. As it adds participants and awards programming grants this fall, the Getty expects that figure to swell to $19 million to $20 million. It also announced a commitment to presenting Pacific Standard Time every five years and is tweaking the initiative's name to "PST Art." The next iteration is titled: "PST Art: Art & Science Collide."

When the art initiative kicks off, expect to see a model on view at the Southern California Institute of Architecture of a futuristic, sustainable, "hyperdense" city built to house the planet's entire population of 8 billion people.

Also prepare for interplanetary exploration. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory will present artworks at Brand Library & Art Center that ponder how a new understanding of the cosmos could shape relationships between humans and robots.

And plan to get your hands dirty. Workshops in conjunction with Self-Help Graphics & Art will have visitors smushing claylike minerals to create outdoor sculptures that will disintegrate into — and ideally heal — toxic soil.

When it debuts in September 2024, PST Art — coordinated exhibitions from more than 50 cultural, scientific and educational organizations across Southern California — will explore the intersection of painting, sculpture, biotechnology, cosmology, sustainable agriculture, the climate crisis and environmen-

[See **PST Art,** E6]

Mingei International Museum

THE MINGEI in San Diego will present "Blue Gold: The Art and Science of Indigo."

Next pay parley begins

Directors, whose concerns mirror writers', start their contract negotiations.

BY ANOUSHA SAKOUI

Hollywood's fraught labor negotiations will enter a new and uncertain phase on Wednesday as the major studios begin negotiations with the Directors Guild of America while striking writers continue to stage protests nationwide.

In years past, the studios have turned to the DGA — which has gone on strike just once (for a few minutes) and has a history of settling contracts quickly and peacefully — to craft an agreement that could serve as a framework for other unions, including the Writers Guild of America, whose members are in their second week of a walkout.

Such a scenario played out in January 2008, when the DGA reached a deal with the studios over internet compensation that laid the groundwork for a rapprochement with writers that ended their 100-day strike.

But circumstances are far different today than 15 years ago, suggesting that the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers could be facing another tough round of negotiations.

In the past, there were real tensions and disagreements between the unions over bargaining strategy and goals.

Today, the two unions seem more in sync and share many of the same concerns about their members being left behind by the streaming revolution and the shift to what some have described as a gig economy.

The higher degree of union solidarity was in evidence last week when lead-

[See **Contracts,** E2]

More than just a local problem

Author Henry Grabar tracks how parking runs parallel to larger social issues in cities around the globe. **E2**

A pioneer in the L.A. punk scene

John Albert, rocker who chronicled city's underbelly and was "unimpressed with fame," dies at 58. **E3**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E4**

BTS' Suga goes solo with love

His band on hiatus, the singer shouts out to his 'brothers' and talks hip-hop passion.

BY AUGUST BROWN

However you look at the current purgatory for K-pop superstars BTS — a long-expected pause for military service, a renewed focus on solo careers or an existential crisis for the genre — there are significant stakes not just for the group, but for the global music industry.

While the seven members of the most successful act in South Korean history take turns, based on their respective birth dates, performing mandatory 18-month stints in the military — Jin and J-Hope are currently serving — those not yet conscripted have the chance to reestablish themselves as solo acts, after six chart-topping Billboard albums and six No. 1 Hot 100 singles together.

For the band's label, Hybe, in the midst of a global acquisition spree, billions of dollars are potentially on the line. Bang Si-hyuk, Hybe chairman, recently stated that there is no set date for BTS' comeback as a group, though he hopes they can return in 2025.

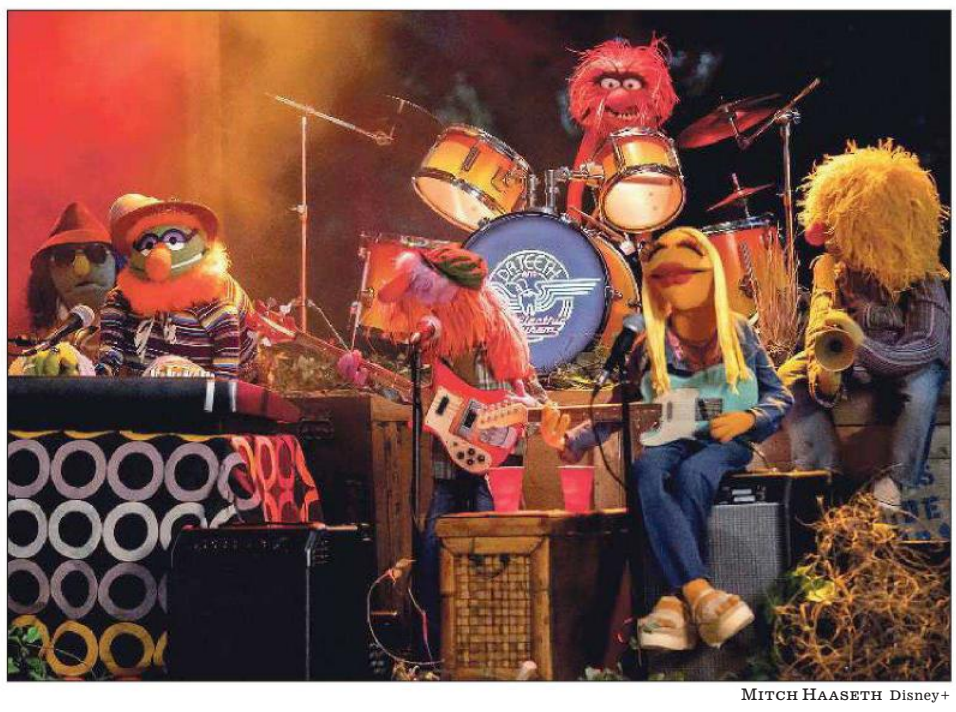
Before beginning his military term later this year, group member Suga is touring U.S. arenas on the back of his solo debut album, "D-Day," performed under the alias Agust D (he has two other mixtapes as Agust D). The dark, smoldering rap album debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard 200.

[See **Suga,** E3]

TELEVISION REVIEW

Puppets return ready to rock

It's all 'Mayhem' for the Muppets house band in a delightful new Disney+ series.



MITCH HAASETH Disney+

ZOOT, from left, Dr. Teeth, Floyd Pepper, Animal, Janice and Lips get their own series with plenty of celebrity guest stars in noteworthy "The Muppets Mayhem."

ROBERT LLOYD
TELEVISION CRITIC

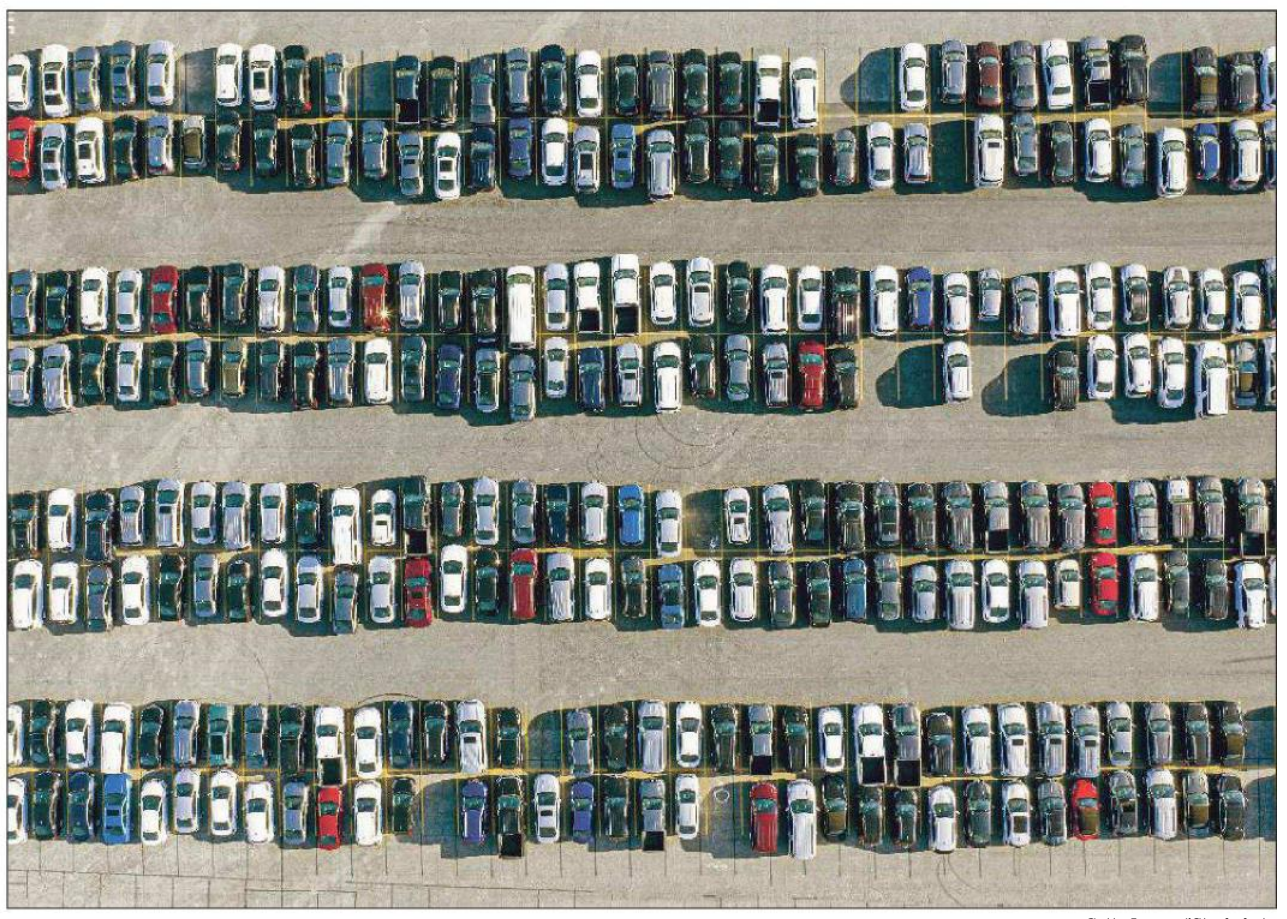
That great American acting company, the Muppets, returns once again to television in the 10-part series "The Muppets Mayhem," premiering Wednesday on Disney+. Like any company of contract players, they have been turned to better and worse uses, and here it is very much the former — like the best Muppet shows, a delight not only for children of all ages, but grown-ups of all ages as well.

The story revolves around the Muppet house band, Dr. Teeth and the

[See **'Muppets,'** E6]

BOOK REVIEW

How parking puts us in a tough spot



ADAMKAZ Getty Images/iStockphoto

A NEW BOOK details the parking crisis plaguing American cities but offers only a few solutions to the issue.

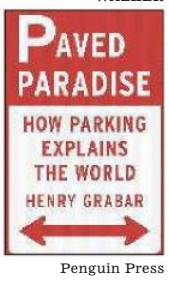
'Paved Paradise' takes on the profound effect of the automobile on L.A. and the world.

By Russ Mitchell

You might expect a book about parking to be a snore. I did. I've tried to read a few in the public library. Didn't get far.

But I have news to report. Henry Grabar's "Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World" is not a slog; it's a romp, packed with tales of anger, violence, theft, lust, greed, political chicanery and transportation policy gone wrong. The protagonist — and the villain — is the car. The theme is our culture's propensity to value automobile ownership over almost everything else, and at a heavy cost.

Lisa Larson-Walker



Penguin Press

HENRY Grabar lays out the issue cleanly and clearly.

If you own a car, you've got to park it somewhere. If you live in or near a city — most of us do — the consequences are all around you. Everyone already knows how fundamentally the automobile has shaped our physical environment, the residents of Los Angeles County perhaps most of all. Roads and highways are only part of it.

"Paved Paradise" sensitized me to just how profoundly parking itself has contributed to the uglification of urban life, creating, as one of Grabar's sources puts it, "a supermundane environment that people just want to move through." He notes a sad fact about "The Sims," the popular reality-cloning video game, which tried to simulate the world as accurately as possible but had to cut back dramatically on the overwhelming presence of parking lots for its simulated city. The visual result would have been too grim.

It's not just looks, though; it's money — money that theoretically could be used for other things. The pocketbook costs of parking are enormous, going far beyond the cash sucked up by meters and garage fees.

Look at housing. The cost of parking requirements for new real estate developments is in the billions, passed on in the form of higher payments for mortgage and rent. This contributes, Grabar contends, to a housing crisis that renders great swaths of vibrant American cities unaffordable to younger generations, with increasing numbers living in tent encampments on public sidewalks (and parking lots!) in what still counts as the world's most prosperous nation.

Like many books that chronicle the deep problems that afflict humanity, "Paved Paradise" is better at explaining the magnitude of the crisis than providing workable solutions. Grabar tries. He's clear about his bottom line: "Abolish parking [requirement] minimums and let developers build the amount of parking their clients want."

Grabar, who writes the Metropolis column at Slate, is more storyteller than economist. That's OK. He lays out the issue cleanly and clearly. His flair for writing will spur wider interest in the subject. It remains to be seen whether economic common sense can prevail over American car culture.

The American attitude toward parking spaces predates the invention of the automobile. "The issue speaks to a basic principle of what it means to be an American," a Boston city councilman tells Grabar. "Like the gold miner and the pioneers, residents have the right to stake their claims."

Fans of "Seinfeld" still talk about the time George Costanza engages in a full-episode standoff for imagined rights to a curbside parking space in front of an apartment building in New York City. As I learned in "Paved Paradise," it's based on a true story — one that ended in serious violence.

That darker truth hidden beneath the mundane humor of workaday parking struggles becomes a pattern in the book.

Commercial squatting on public curb space affects cities around the world, especially where parking enforcement is lax. Take New York City's Ice Cream Truck Wars several years ago. Over a 10-year period, starting in 2009, six dozen soft-serve ice cream vehicles amassed 22,495 unpaid parking tickets, for a debt of $4.47 million. The complicated token system run by the city made it easy to transfer tokens and evade fines.

The enforcement came from truck owners who relied on thuggery to maintain their squatting rights. In one incident, a driver was spit on, and the windshield of the spitter's truck was bashed in by a garden hoe. Mister Softee drivers began avoiding Midtown Manhattan, afraid of getting beaten up.

To this former resident of Chicago, Grabar's description of "Chicago dibs," a post-snowstorm phenomenon in which residents claim public curb space as their own, is spot on. A near-infinite number of markers have been used to reserve a spot: "A piano bench, a wheelchair, a car door, two vacuum cleaners, a chair with a few complimentary beers, a fully set dining room table, and all manner of Nativity figurines, including a mannequin torso perched on a board between two cinderblocks with the message 'the body of Christ compels you not to take my spot' scrawled across the chest in Sharpie."

Once again, however, comedy curdles into serious trouble. An entire chapter is devoted to Chicago's disastrous sell-off of its municipal parking system to private equity, a key factor in Mayor Richard M. Daley's decision not to run for another term.

California, inevitably, figures heavily in "Paved Paradise." The paradise line from the famous Joni Mitchell song "Big Yellow Taxi" that gives Grabar his title may have been inspired by Hawaii, but L.A. is its truest manifestation. In the 1920s, as those newfangled private motor cars gummed up traffic, street-side parking downtown was banned. The result: comfortably smooth traffic flow and a revenue decline for downtown merchants of 50%.

Keeping shoppers and white-collar employees downtown became an obsession of city leaders for decades. Parking requirements for new construction and low-cost curbside parking made the cityscape repellent and traffic worse, ironically pushing more development to the suburbs.

In Grabar's analysis — which jibes with the work of 1960s new urbanists like Jane Jacobs, who fought for more affordable, more attractive, more walkable cities — the costs of parking have been subsidized for too long.

Jacobs was one of the first to argue that more parking means more traffic and a dehumanization of city life. Grabar notes that cities that balked at increasing residential parking requirements — San Francisco, Boston, New Orleans — are among the country's most walkable.

A freer-market approach, which separates the price of parking from other building costs, might provide a rare example of left and right coming together. Grabar quotes a developer who wants to build near mass transit, provide no parking and keep rents more affordable as a result. To those who complained he'd find too few tenants to accept the tradeoff, he said that should be his problem. If it didn't work, he'd be the biggest loser.

Such experiments are being tried in California and other states; Grabar mentions several. It's too early to draw conclusions on that approach. The COVID-19 pandemic rearranged work, travel and living patterns so fundamentally that new patterns are only beginning to emerge.

The book could have used more discussion of new technologies, such as apps that make parking spots easier to find, as well as San Francisco's computer-based parking meter system, which dynamically changes prices as demand shifts.

Grabar's discussion of autonomous vehicles as a partial solution to the problem — they don't need to park, as they can operate 24/7 — buys too naively into Silicon Valley hype. The cars will be "parked" somewhere, even if they're moving. If they're not in driveways or parking garage, they'll be choking traffic on the streets.

More focus on economic stratification would have been welcome too. Cutting parking requirements might lower rents, but is mass transit as it exists adequate to the task? Post-COVID, can it be made to be? Will rents be reduced enough to make up for higher parking costs? Won't increased gentrification be the result?

The problems are immense. The solutions remain unclear. Grabar says we are "so deep in the parking crater people can't see beyond its edge." His highly entertaining take on a serious subject will persuade more people to at least take a good look.

Hollywood directors begin pay talks

[**Contracts,** from E1]

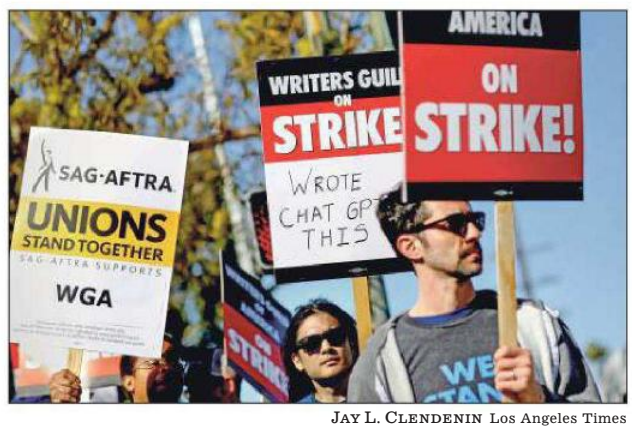
ers from the DGA, Teamsters and other Hollywood unions gathered at the Shrine Auditorium with 1,800 writers in a show of support.

Writers Guild of America negotiating committee co-chair Chris Keyser described the collaboration as unprecedented.

"If the studios think they are going to undermine our solidarity by making a deal with directors, they have mis-analyzed the situation," Keyser said in an interview.

Like writers, Hollywood's directors have significant differences with the studios on a number of issues related to the way streaming has eroded their compensation.

"We know there will be conflict," DGA negotiating committee co-chair Todd Holland said in a video to DGA members posted Tuesday. "The battle will test us. But we won't rest until we win a strong contract today that builds a bridge to continued DGA prosperity into the future."



Jay L. Clendenin Los Angeles Times

WITH the Writers Guild of America striking against producers, directors begin contract negotiations too.

The studios have been preparing for months for a writers' strike by stockpiling scripts and moving up production to get around the need for writers on set.

So far, the strike has halted or disrupted a number of TV productions including Netflix's "Stranger Things," Apple's "Severance" and Walt Disney's "Daredevil: Born Again," as Teamsters and other union members refused to cross the WGA's picket lines.

The fallout will be even more severe if directors and actors also stage strikes.

The DGA — whose 19,000 members include directors, unit production managers and assistant directors — has been uncharacteristically vocal ahead of the talks.

"This will not be an ordinary negotiation," negotiations committee chair Jon Avnet and National Executive Director Russell Hollander said in a statement last November.

In February, the DGA said it would only negotiate with studios early, months before its contract expires, if the studios "are prepared to satisfactorily address our concerns."

When that didn't happen, the DGA put off its negotiations until May, which is unusually late for a union with a tradition of early bargaining.

And now the DGA and the studios have only a small window of time in which to negotiate a new three-year deal. The current contracts for the DGA and SAG-AFTRA actors expire on June 30.

The AMPTP will need to turn its attention to SAG-AFTRA and its contract as of June 7.

The AMPTP declined to comment.

Like writers, directors complain of not knowing when the next gig will be and that residuals — the royalties creators get from re-airing of films and TV shows — that sustained them in the past no longer do so.

With studios now owning distribution and production, directors are concerned about the lack of an open market for their films and TV shows, which has eroded their residual income, DGA President Lesli Linka Glatter said in an op-ed published in Variety on Tuesday.

"Make no mistake: The current position of the studios is a threat to the economic model that for decades has protected tens of thousands of good, union jobs in our industry," Glatter wrote.

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The state of what's next. Los Angeles Times

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ROYAL 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.
R.M.N. 1:00 4:00
THOSE WHO REMAINED 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30
OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN 1:30 4:30 7:20
DOCUMENTARY FILM PROGRAM NR 7:30 PM

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? PG-13 1:20 4:10 7:10
POLITE SOCIETY PG-13 1:30 4:20
CARMEN R 1:00 4:00 7:10
SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS R 4:20 PM
WILD LIFE PG-13 4:30 PM
JOYLAND 1:10 PM
SHOWING UP R 4:10 PM
ANXIOUS NATION 1:00 7:30
GIVING BIRTH TO A BUTTERFLY 7:30 PM
PLAN 75 1:20 7:20
THE TAKING 7:30 PM

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10
ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET. PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:10
R.M.N. 1:00 7:00
THOSE WHO REMAINED 1:30 7:30
CARMEN R 4:00 PM
CHEVALIER PG-13 4:30 PM
OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN 4:10 PM
SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS R 1:10 7:20

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 PG-13 12:50 4:10 7:30
LOVE AGAIN PG-13 1:10 4:00 7:00
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? PG-13 7:20 PM
ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET. PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:10
BIG GEORGE FOREMAN PG-13 1:00 4:05 7:10
POLITE SOCIETY PG-13 1:30 PM
EVIL DEAD RISE R 1:20 4:20 7:00
AIR R 4:30 PM
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG 12:50 3:00 5:15 7:30

GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 PG-13 12:50 4:10 7:30
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? PG-13 4:40 PM
POLITE SOCIETY PG-13 4:00 PM
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:55 6:45
CARMEN R 1:20 7:10
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R 4:30 PM
JOYLAND 1:00 7:20
SHOWING UP R 1:30 7:20
DE HUMANI CORPORIS FABRICA 4:20 PM

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 PG-13 12:50 4:10 7:30
JOHNNY & CLYDE 4:35 PM
LAND OF GOLD 1:20 4:20 7:10
ONE RANGER R 1:30 4:30 7:20
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? PG-13 4:00 PM
ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET. PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:20
POLITE SOCIETY PG-13 1:10 7:00
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:50 7:00
SHORT FILM PROGRAM NR STADIUM SEATING; 4:00 PM

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
PONYO 15TH ANNIVERSARY - STUDIO GHIBLI FEST 2023 G 7:00 PM
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 PG-13 12:50 4:10 7:30
LOVE AGAIN PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:10
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? PG-13 7:00 PM
ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET. PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:20
POLITE SOCIETY PG-13 1:10 PM
SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS R 4:00 PM
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG 12:55 3:10

BARGAIN IN ( ) CC CLOSED CAPTION NSP NON-STANDARD PRICING FOR 5/10/2023 ONLY

JOHN ALBERT, 1964 — 2023

Chronicler of L.A.'s underbelly

The punk pioneer also wrote a memoir, 'Wrecking Crew,' on baseball, addiction.

By Jim Ruland

In the early days of Southern California's hardcore punk explosion, John Albert went to Arizona with his friends in the Orange County band the Adolescents. Being a roadie meant riding in the back of the truck with the equipment.

After they drove across the desert for eight hours, a brawl broke out at the gig. Albert locked himself in the dressing room, gathered up the deli platters and booze, and climbed out the window. The show may have been a bust but, thanks to his quick thinking, they had food and beer for the long ride home.

As a teenager, Albert threw himself into the L.A. punk scene, where he made many lifelong friends. In an essay about seeing Black Flag for the first time, he wrote about the suffocation of suburban ennui. "I have cut my hair short and can't stop smashing windows."

Musician Ben Harper, who grew up next door to Albert and was four years his junior, witnessed the transformation: "I'll never forget the first time I saw his Mohawk spiked to the moon. It was as if he had landed from outer space."

A beloved participant in and observer of the L.A. underground, Albert died of a heart attack May 3. He was 58. His death was confirmed by his brother, Jesse.

Albert, who was born Oct. 10, 1964, grew up in Claremont, the younger of two children. His father, Robert S. Albert, was a professor of child psychology at Pitzer College and his mother, Julie Maehling Albert, was a social worker at Loma Linda University.

From an early age, John Albert was drawn to a side of L.A. that others didn't appreciate or even see. Wherever he went, others followed. As a musician, he played a key role in L.A.'s punk rock scene in the influential Goth-punk band Christian Death, which he formed with Roger Alan Painter, a.k.a. Rozz Williams, in late 1979. "Christian Death started in our garage," recalled Albert's brother, Jesse.

"Jay Albert and his squad introduced Southern California to punk rock," Harper said, "especially in the 909 [area code] and the Inland Empire, where he and I grew up."

Later, Albert signed on as the drummer for San Fernando Valley punk rock band Bad Religion, even though his friend, founding member Brett Gurewitz, wasn't playing in the group at the time.

Albert also jammed with other L.A. bands, including the New Romantics with Jack Grisham of T.S.O.L. and DFL with Adam Horovitz of the Beastie Boys. Albert's stint in Bad Religion came to an end in the mid-'80s when he checked into rehab to get help for his hardcore heroin addiction.

He emerged 18 months later and reinvented himself as a writer. He wrote about the city he loved and displayed a knack for dissecting L.A. at the intersection of glitz and grime.

He had a temperament perfectly suited for documenting the incongruities of the city at the turn of the century. Albert wrote for alternative weeklies and magazines, including L.A. Weekly in its heyday, and the influential literary magazine Slake, founded by Laurie Ochoa (now general manager of Food at The Times) and Joe Donnelly.

Susan Tyler

'A ROCK STAR OF A HUMAN BEING'
John Albert, in an undated photo, delved deep into the L.A. underground, in bands — Christian Death and Bad Religion, among others — and in his writing.

Albert was a keen observer and an intuitive critic. It didn't matter whether his subjects were on the rise or past their prime according to Hollywood's ruthless calculus of cool — Albert was able to dismiss the hype and get at the essence.

In an L.A. Weekly cover story about the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Albert considered the band's legacy — warts and all: "David Bowie stated that the American public really only remembers the three biggest things any artist has done. Sadly, for the Chili Peppers this would consist of nudity, drug addiction and funk rock."

"He had a style, and he had a way of understanding the essential parts of the story," said Donnelly. "He was unencumbered by prejudice or snobbery when it came to seeing what the heart of the story was. If it was a story with soul and meaning, he didn't care if it was cool or not."

Perhaps his greatest and most unlikely literary achievement was his 2005 memoir about baseball and addiction, "Wrecking Crew: The Really Bad News Griffith Park Pirates."

It's a nonfiction account about a team of addicts, ex-cons and semi-reformed dirtbags whose members recapture a piece of their innocence on the baseball diamond.

Playing baseball with broken people, Albert was able to reconnect with his youth. "When I look back on those two seasons of Little League," he wrote in "Wrecking Crew," "they seem like the relative calm before the storm, a lingering moment of true childhood before I was swept up in a wave of teenage nihilism, petty crime, and punk music."

For Albert, the game filled a hole he didn't know he had. "For someone like me," he admitted in a profile in The Times, "an antisocial intellectual who had spent his life sneering at any kind of middle-class normalcy, joining a baseball team felt oddly subversive."

"Wrecking Crew" began as a story that ran in L.A. Weekly and evolved into a book-length memoir of brutal honesty and gallows humor. Albert's longtime friend Jerry Stahl calls it "one of the great unsung books about Los Angeles — in particular, the East Side."

The book was twice optioned by Paramount. Then, Philip Seymour Hoffman acquired the option, which ended with the actor's death by accidental overdose in 2014. Such cosmic irony would unravel some writers, but Albert took it in stride.

"He was incredibly unimpressed with fame," Donnelly said. "He had famous friends, friends of great renown. He had notorious friends. He had friends with mythical and epic lives. None of that mattered. What mattered to John was having a soulful relationship with people."

Albert wasn't an actor but he possessed the confidence of someone at home in his own skin. Although he had recently completed a biography of nightclub impresario and conservationist Eric Goode and "Wrecking Crew" is being developed for television, his friends recalled that he seldom talked about what he was working on or what he was up to.

"John had a gift for being interested in other people," Gurewitz said. "At a dinner party, you could seat him next to the most awkward person because John could talk to anybody."

The riff that runs through Albert's writing and relationships was his great sense of humor, which ranged from the scatological to the acerbic. "John was one of the funniest people I ever met," said Stahl. "His humor was so dry you might not know to laugh right away, but the laugh always arrived."

Albert never lost sight of what he went through to have the kind of normal life that many take for granted, and he helped many Angelenos in their struggles with substance abuse.

Harper recalled how Albert supported him in the early stages of his sobriety: "He helped pave the way for me to not drink. He was a touchstone when I was white-knuckling it." Albert encouraged him to imagine what the day after would be like if he relapsed. "Right away, I'd be back in my body," Harper said.

"He was a rock star of a human being," Gurewitz said.

Albert is survived by his 9-year-old son, Ravi, and his brother, Jesse.

BTS' Suga flies solo for now

[**Suga,** from E1]

Suga will perform three sold-out shows at Inglewood's Kia Forum on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. However, he swears, he's not competitive about it with his band mates.

"Are you competitive with your family members? Do you get jealous if your brother or your sister does well?" he asked with a laugh during a Zoom interview (Suga spoke through a Korean translator). "We're real brothers, period. If I do well, that's good. If my family members do well, that's even better."

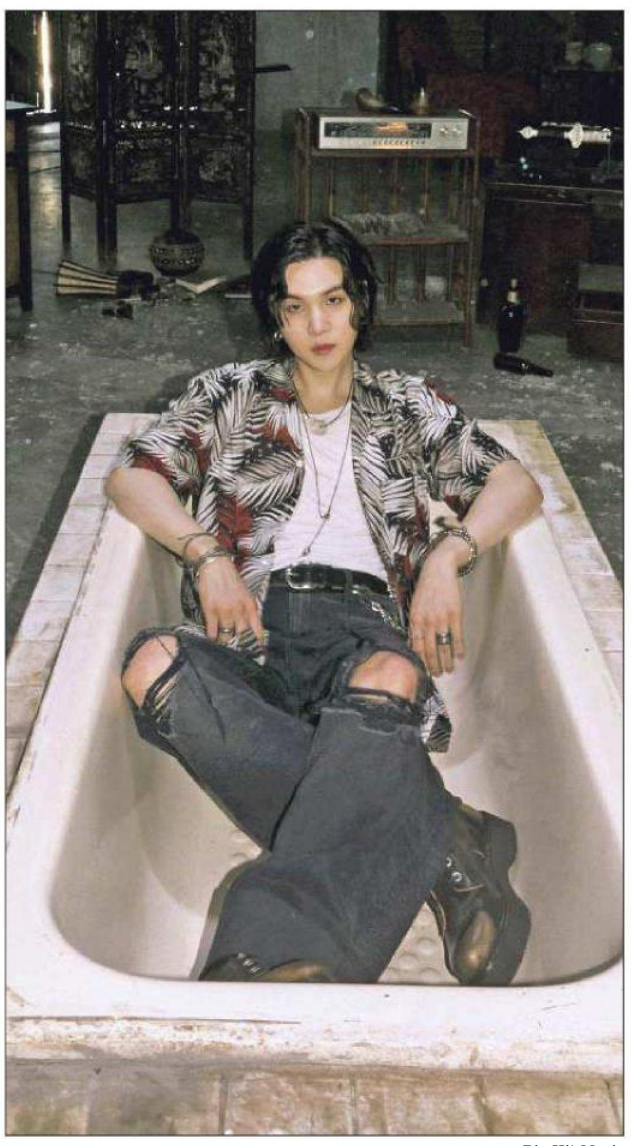
Suga's Agust D alias has long turned heads within the BTS solo-project sphere. Sometimes, those heads nearly get decapitated via giant ritual temple sword, as in his 2020 video for the rowdy "Daechwita." Other times, they get stabbed right through with a pair of chopsticks, as Suga does himself in the deliciously grisly, "Oldboy"-worthy video for the new single "Haegeum."

It's tough to square this genuinely transgressive solo artist with the snazzy-suited, fleet-footed heartthrob harmonizing on a Hot 100 hit like "Butter." Devoted BTS Army fans know that Suga has an underground streak from his pre-BTS days, cribbing production notes from pioneering Korean rap acts like Epik High.

"Some bright and cheerful songs go into BTS," he said. "But I've been doing music without any filter all the time, so I wouldn't differentiate between Agust D or Suga, because all those are all me."

Still, "D-Day" is a standout, and not just for the subshaking production and gory videos. "Haegeum" is lacerating about modern life in South Korea: "*Maybe we do it to ourselves/ Slaves to capitalism, slaves to money/ Slaves to hatred and prejudice/ Slaves to YouTube, slaves to flexin'*."

Then he turns his blade on the internet culture that fascinates and destroys young people (including other K-pop artists, like the late Moonbin): "*Endless influx of information prohibits freedom of imagination/ And seeks conformity of thought/ All these painful noises blind you*."



Big Hit Music

SUGA will play the Kia Forum this week, promoting "D-Day," his bold new hip-hop album as Agust D.

"We're living a life that's better than ever before," Suga said. "Some say we all live better lives than the king hundreds of years ago. But everything we worry about is coming too fast. Everyone's lonely without having a sense of belonging, we can't relate to the things that our parents have experienced, like being obsessed with accomplishments. Nobody feels a sense of belonging."

Suga's not immune from self-criticism, either. On "People Pt. 2," with K-pop R&B singer IU, he sorts out his wariness around intimacy. "*Selflessness can actually be selfish too, it's true/ It's actually my greed when I say that it's all for you*."

"*This thing called love ... it's conditional*," he sings. "*Wasn't loved enough as a kid, that's why I'm the cautious type*."

Suga, born Min Yoon-gi, famously broke down in tears after seeing his formerly reluctant parents attend a BTS show in 2016. What did they make of that song?

"I don't actually let my parents listen to my music before it's released because there's so many swear words," Suga answered with a laugh. "My parents listen to BTS songs. Things are good with us."

On one hand, being in a globally famous act means any slip-up could be perilous. On the other, BTS-size stardom and a reputation for real artistry allow for uncommon candor, said Sang Cho, co-founder of the L.A.-based K-pop distribution and event firm KAI Media.

"Suga and RM are to BTS what Lennon and McCartney were to the Beatles. [RM is expected to be the next BTS member to enlist.] Every member is talented, but these two are definitely the driving force behind their music," Cho said. "I think Suga is a bit more Lennon — more explicit in his anties-tablishment sensibilities. 'Haegeum' is a double entendre of a traditional Korean string instrument and wordplay on 'liberation from restrictions.' "

"D-Day" also reflects on the music that helped Suga become a serious artist. His track "Snooze" was one of the late Japanese composer Ryuichi Sakamoto's last collaborations, an artful yet stern track that brought Suga back to his teenage days learning to sample.

"I'm not really good at piano, but I remember playing 'Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence' all day when I was young," Suga said. "It's impossible not to be influenced by him if you're born in Korea. When I was young, I needed instrumentals without voice to sample, so I reversed and chopped his music. I am very grateful I can call him a mentor even though I only met him once."

While Suga is playfully cynical about accolades like Grammy Awards — "Isn't that a local thing?" he joked, echoing South Korean director Bong Joon Ho's quip about the Oscars — he has nuanced thoughts about his place in hip-hop.

"I did have that differentiation when I was younger. I hoped that [rap fans] would approve of my music," he said. "But I have this very firm belief that if I go to a hip-hop concert, where there'll be only hip-hop fans, well, BTS fans are hip-hop fans too. I'm a huge fan of hip-hop, but what's important here is that it's not empty words to do music for the people that have sent you love and support."

As the members of BTS sort out these years in transition, they're still in one another's lives. BTS' Jimin debuted atop the Hot 100 with "Like Crazy" in March. Suga can't wait to be in the crowd cheering for his band mates when their times come.

"If you live for 13 years in one house under the same roof 24/7, you become a family," Suga said. "A lot of people think that the relationships between K-pop band members are kind of fake, but that's not true. For me, it's more like, 'Oh, Jimin, hi! You made it to the Hot 100, I'm so proud of you!' "

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COMICS

SUDOKU

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Level: Gentle

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3	1	2	4	6	5

5/10/23

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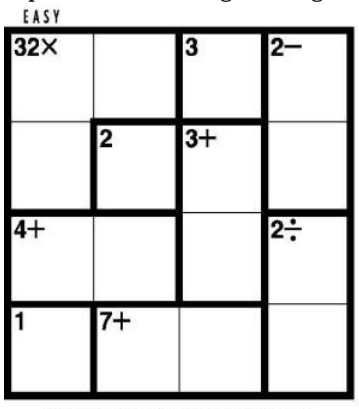
Solutions to Tuesday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

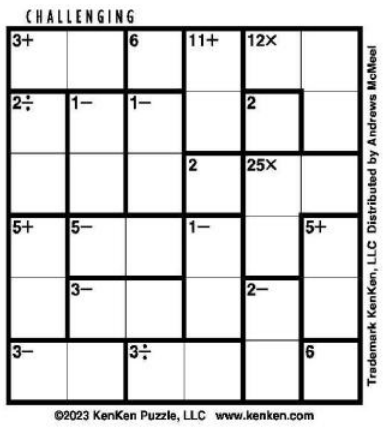
KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



CHALLENGING



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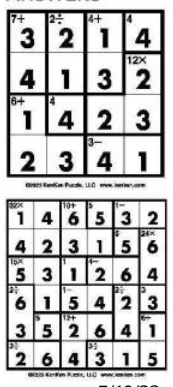
PREVIOUS ANSWERS



5/10/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): Relationships knit together with shared experiences, not a shared point of view.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You're in charge of your own agenda. Don't drive yourself too hard.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): The reason you get to be in your current position is because you've earned it.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): If you can't think of what to say, don't worry. Timing, intuition and kismet are working in your favor.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You will become more powerful, but not through sources outside yourself. For this reason, it makes no sense to seek power, only to grow it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Check in with yourself about the dynamics of a relationship. Healthy relationships are like art — you have to draw the line someplace.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Instead of thinking in terms of wrong and right, consider what ideas are helpful or not. Mentally untie yourself from ideas that aren't useful.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Love is knowing specifically what makes a person special. You take the time to know precisely what makes a person unique.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will feel inspired to toss out a regret. Pretend it's a smooth, flat stone you can skip across the still waters of reason.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's beautiful how you appreciate other people's accomplishments. Can you apply the same enthusiasm to self-appreciation?

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Battling your fear takes too much energy. Thank your fear for keeping you safe, heightening your perception and helping you correct your course when necessary.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Activities you typically take on solo will be made sweeter with the right company. Doings like entertainment and exercise will take on new dimensions with the added insight of interesting people.

Today's birthday (May 10): This is the beginning of a meaningful build. Your ability to elicit and apply excellent feedback will net you brilliant results. You'll make things people need, and they'll become happy, praiseful customers of yours. You'll soak up the love and radiate it too. More highlights: VIP tickets, natural wonders and the resolution you've waited for. Sagittarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers: 5, 3, 7, 19 and 32.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis
By Emma Lawson and Shannon Rapp

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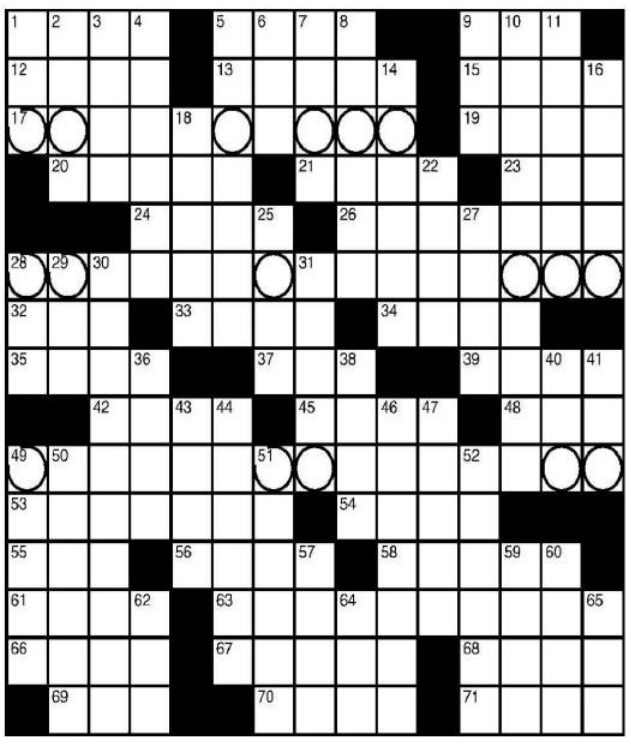

ACROSS
1 "Between Two Ferns" host Galifianakis
5 German woman
9 Brief "Don't know yet"
12 __ mutter: potatoes and peas dish
13 "Birmingham" sculptor Simone __
15 Trick or treat
17 Dog relaxing across a foam flotation device?
19 Garden need
20 Respected figure
21 Round Table titles
23 Cavaliers sch.
24 Way out
26 Realms
28 Dog traveling through a mysterious section of the North Atlantic?
32 What "will be" will be
33 Window part
34 Short pants?
35 2019 documentary about fatherhood
37 "Designated Survivor" actor Penn
39 Robin's residence
42 Spanish house
45 Court dividers
48 __ of Tranquility
49 Dog spreading out at a minimal performance venue?
53 Expression of love that doesn't quite land?
54 Stitches
55 Car care brand
56 Fold
58 Pronoun pair
61 Call-and-response response
63 High-end SUV, and an apt description of each set of circled letters?
66 Renaissance fair instrument
67 Dentist's tool
68 Angry outburst
69 Opposite of NNE
70 Octagonal sign
71 Codas

DOWN
1 Comic book onomatopoeia
2 Soothing succulent
3 Like early spring weather
4 Poker variety
5 Home of Everglades National Park
6 __ Speedwagon
7 Helps
8 Less appealing
9 Best Buy wallful
10 "Beauty and the Beast" song
11 Tripe
14 __ crab
16 Nonchalant
18 Connection
22 Trade jabs
25 Undertaking
27 Party to
28 Billie Eilish's "__ Guy"
29 Notable slice of time
30 Fancy places to see the stars?
31 Quick note of appreciation
36 Bag of potatoes
38 "Shall we?" response
40 "Told ya!"
41 Roof goo
43 Comic vignette
44 Ridiculous
46 Viola Davis film whose tagline was "Change begins with a whisper"
47 Ninja Turtle home
49 Rudimentary
50 Chemistry paper?
51 2023 awards for "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
52 On land
57 Make mittens, say
59 Tennis star Lendl
60 Repair
62 Just out
64 __ Worm: 1980s bedtime toy
65 Shares again, on Twitter

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	O	H	O		P	O	P	A	R	T		P	A	W	N
I	M	U	P		L	O	A	N	E	R		A	L	O	E
R	A	T	E	M	Y	P	R	O	F	E	S	S	O	R	S
I	N	T	R	O		S	K	I		V	E	T	O	E	S
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P	A	Y	T	R	I	B	U	T	E		O	L	D	E	
A	L	E	E		D	E	R		T	E	R	S	E	S	T
L	I	E		L	E	S			O	L	A		C	P	R
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S	E	R	E	N	E		I	T	S		T	E	R	R	A
S	T	A	R	T	I	N	G	S	A	L	A	R	I	E	S
N	A	M	E		G	E	M	I	N	I		I	R	I	S
S	L	I	D		H	E	A	T	E	D		A	I	N	T

5/10/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

"Got a question for you," Cy the Cynic said to me.

"Sure," I said, expecting a query about a deal.

"Do you understand cloning?" Cy asked gravely.

"Not at all."

"Well," the Cynic chortled, "that makes two of us."

It's hard to understand how South went down at today's 3NT; some processes are mysterious. He won the first spade with the ace and let the jack of hearts ride. If the finesse won, South expected three hearts, three clubs and at least three spades. And the finesse did win: East followed with the eight.

South then led a heart to dummy's queen, and his second finesse didn't win. East took the king and led a third heart. South had only eight tricks, and East got in with the ace of diamonds to cash two more hearts.

Losing 3NT wasn't easy. South should lead the queen of diamonds at Trick Two. If East wins and returns a spade, South wins and leads the jack of diamonds. He sets up a diamond trick and can get two hearts for at least nine tricks in all.

You hold: ♠ 7 4 ♥ K 9 8 3 2 ♦ A 6 ♣ J 10 8 5. The dealer, at your left, opens one spade. Your partner doubles, and the next player bids two spades. What do you say?

Answer: You must act. The only question is how high to go. The decision is close; trade your jack of clubs for the king and you would bid four hearts. As it is, bid three hearts to compete. If the opponents go to three spades, you will defer to your partner and hope he makes a winning call.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K 5 2
♥ A Q 4
♦ 10 7 3 2
♣ K 9 2

WEST
♠ J 10 9 8
♥ 7 5
♦ K 9 8 4
♣ 6 4 3

EAST
♠ 7 4
♥ K 9 8 3 2
♦ A 6
♣ J 10 8 5

SOUTH
♠ A Q 6 3
♥ J 10 6
♦ Q J 5
♣ A Q 7

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead — ♠ J

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

Sons' calls trigger anxiety

Dear Amy: I have trouble insulating myself from the anxiety caused by my young adult sons' life issues. They are 21 and 26 years old.

I've done what I could as a mom to raise independent adults. They are doing well for the most part (the younger still in college), but we are close and they confide in me. This can really send me into a tailspin.

Our older son has chosen a lifestyle that is built around being outdoors, but his work can be sporadic and he can be very scattered.

I believe he may have some depression and doesn't always take his meds for his ADHD. But I'm glad he confides in me, and I prompt him to take care of himself.

Our younger son has chosen an extremely competitive academic and professional path.

My anxiety about my sons really impacts me on a daily basis, and is not healthy.

I worry about their futures and their ability to become the people they want to become, have successful careers, and support themselves.

Any words of wisdom?

Worried Mom

Dear Worried: First for the sharp shock: You will thrill to your kids' victories and worry over their defeats for the rest of your life.

Relationships with your children represent life's longest game, and so you have to find healthy ways to pace yourself.

Mind you, the only thing worse than the phone ringing, is the phone NOT ringing, and in that regard you have an enviable relationship with these young men.

The fact that they honestly share their trials and concerns with you means that they will likely be good partners and parents if they choose that path.

When your sons share (or overshare) about challenges in their lives, ask yourself: Do I need to act? Am I being asked to do anything?

You should then focus on your anxious reactions. Talking it through with a therapist could help.

Also remember: Your sons will fall. They will fail. Their paths to "success" may not look familiar to you.

Do they know how anxious you are? Being as honest with them as they are with you might inspire them to volunteer more reassurances, and fewer reasons to worry.

Dear Amy: I live in a popular winter vacation area, and I have guest(s) who invite themselves and stay for seven days.

They don't want to do anything but enjoy the sunshine, so that leaves me cooking every meal. I live far away from restaurants, so eating out every meal isn't an option, plus when we do, I end up paying for everyone.

While I enjoy seeing them, I need some way to let them know that a three- to four-day stay is long enough.

What can I do without hurting their feelings or make them feel unwanted?

Nervous

Dear Nervous: I receive so many questions about people who invite themselves for extended stays in others' homes!

I'm going to assume that your annual guests might believe that they have a standing invitation because they've been doing this for so long.

You need to tell them: "A week-long stay is too much for me now. I also no longer cook for people. I do want to see you, but let's talk about ways to make your visits easier on me."

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham

REPLY ALL LITE By Donna Lewis

I can't, Mom. I have to work. But I'll bet Drew would jump at the chance to do it.
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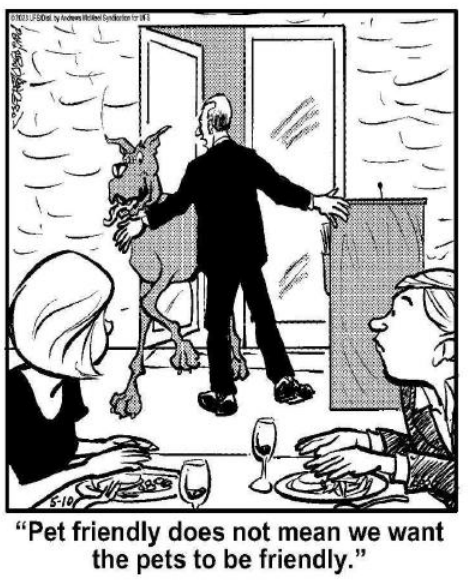
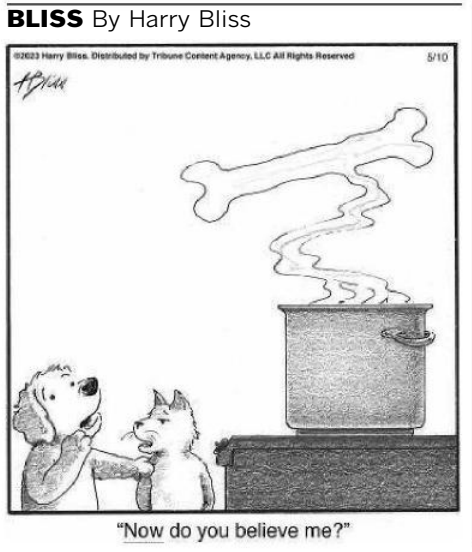
Dist. by WPWG
www.replyallcomic.com
5-10

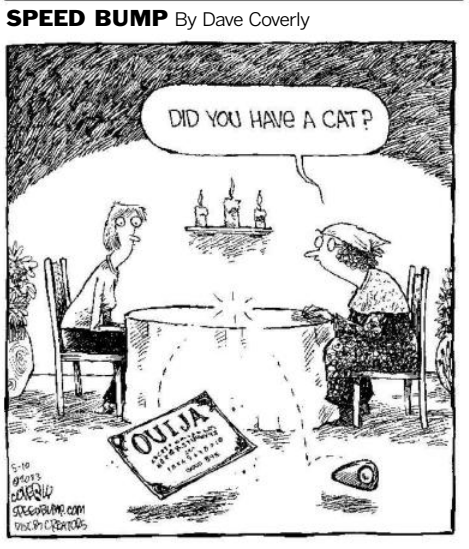
MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson



BLISS By Harry Bliss



SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly



COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz

HOW COME MOM GETS TO CELEBRATE MEXICAN AND AMERICAN MOTHER'S DAY?
BILINGUAL MOMS SHOW DOUBLE THE LOVE, DOUBLE THE FOOD, DOUBLE THE DISCIPLINE...
FELIZ DIA DE LAS MADRES, MARIA.
GRACIAS, BUT ALL OF YOU ARE EATING WITH YOUR MOUTHS OPEN!

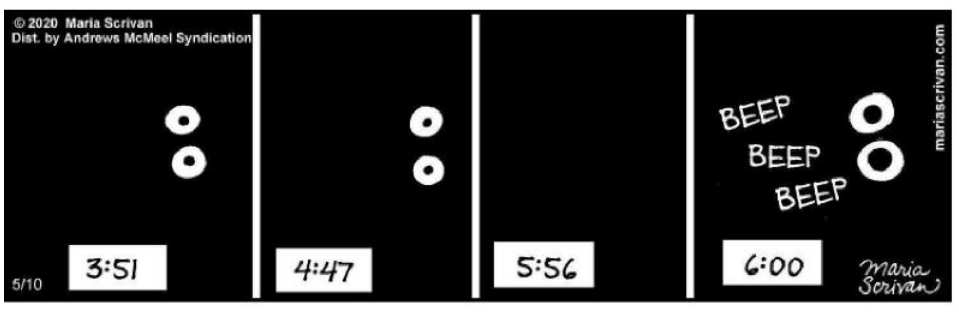
CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia

SON, BEFORE YOU MADE YOUR DARING ESCAPE, YOUR MOM THOUGHT WE SHOULD HAVE A TALK.
SHE... WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTOOD WHY YOU WERE BEING PUNISHED.
WAS IT NOT BECAUSE I THREW A FOOTBALL IN THE HOUSE AND BROKE YOUR EXPENSIVE NEW TV?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, TOO. BUT WHAT THE HECK DO I KNOW, RIGHT?
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

1982
YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD BE REALLY COOL? IF EDDIE MURPHY WAS PRESIDENT.
WHY EDDIE MURPHY?
BECAUSE HIS STATE OF THE UNION SPEECHES WOULD BE HILARIOUS. HE COULD DRESS IN A LEATHER SUIT, DO FUNNY VOICES, CUSS A LOT...
THE ONLY THING STANDING IN HIS WAY IS THAT HE'S AN ENTERTAINER. AND AMERICA IS TOO SERIOUS TO PUT AN ENTERTAINER IN CHARGE.
RONALD REAGAN'S IN CHARGE NOW.
THAT'S DIFFERENT. MOMMA SAYS HE WAS NEVER ALL THAT ENTERTAINING.

HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan

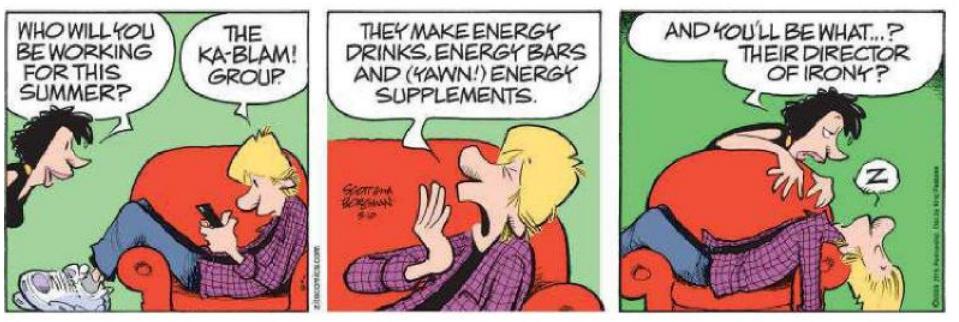


PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis

WELL, JUST FINISHED WORKING OUT FOR THREE HOURS. I DO IT EVERY MORNING FROM 4 A.M. TO 7.
THAT'S AMAZING.
NOT REALLY. I THINK EACH OF US IS ABLE TO BE DISCIPLINED IN SOME ACTIVITY IN THEIR LIFE...SOMETHING THEY CAN STICK TO EVERY DAY. WHAT'S IT FOR YOU?
BREATHING AND EATING CHEESE.
SIT FURTHER AWAY.
AM I BREATHING TOO MUCH?

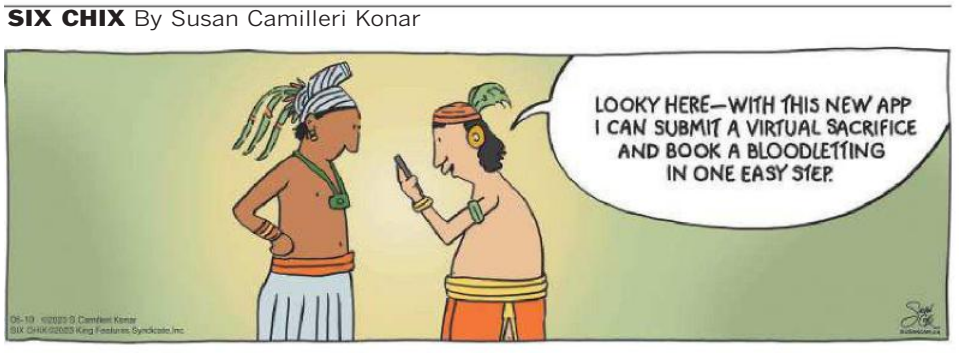
LIO By Mark Tatulli

ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

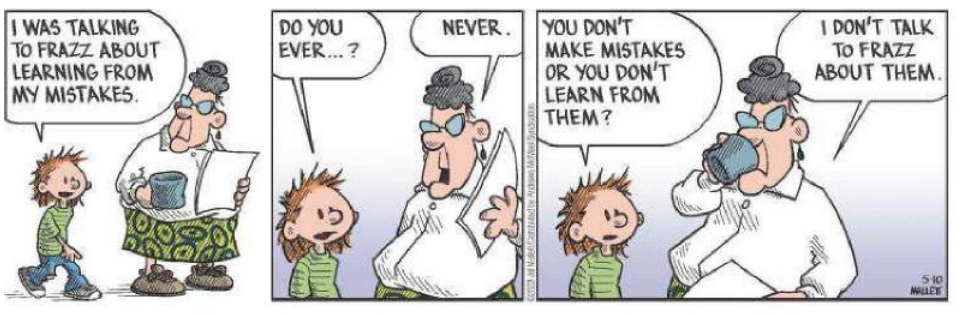

WHO WILL YOU BE WORKING FOR THIS SUMMER?
THE KA-BLAM! GROUP.
THEY MAKE ENERGY DRINKS, ENERGY BARS AND (YAWN!) ENERGY SUPPLEMENTS.
AND YOU'LL BE WHAT...? THEIR DIRECTOR OF IRONY?
Z
zitscomics.com

TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter

SIX CHIX By Susan Camilleri Konar



FRAZZ By Jef Mallett


I WAS TALKING TO FRAZZ ABOUT LEARNING FROM MY MISTAKES.
DO YOU EVER...?
NEVER.
YOU DON'T MAKE MISTAKES OR YOU DON'T LEARN FROM THEM?
I DON'T TALK TO FRAZZ ABOUT THEM.
5-10

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN OUT HERE RESEARCHING YOUR SQUIRRELS-DON'T-POOP HYPOTHESIS, JEFFREY?
THREE DAYS, 6 HOURS AND 27 MINUTES
AND IN THAT TIME, WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?
THAT I REALLY WISH I COULD BE LIKE A SQUIRREL RIGHT NOW...CAN YOU TAKE OVER WHILE I...
MUST...STOP... TALKING... TO...BOYS...

PICKLES By Brian Crane

HEY, EARL. HOW ARE YOU?
OKAY. I'M DECEASED.
YOU'RE DECEASED?
YEAH. I FOUND OUT TODAY FROM MY CREDIT CARD COMPANY.
THEY CLOSED MY ACCOUNT BECAUSE ACCORDING TO THEIR RECORDS, I'M DEAD.
I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH, EARL. IT'S PROBABLY A MISTAKE.
PROBABLY?!

BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman

WHAT ARE YOU PAINTING ON YOUR ROCK?
A HEART AND A FLOWER.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU PAINTING ON YOURS?
GODZILLA FIGHTING SPACE VAMPIRES WITH FLAMETHROWERS.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE YOU.

CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEW OWNER OF THE VALENTINE IS THE MOVIE ACTOR MASON JARRE.
THAT'S TRUE, BUT WE HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING, SO I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT GOT OUT.
I DID MENTION THAT WE'RE A SMALL-TOWN NEWSPAPER.
BATIUK & DAVIS tomBatiuk.com/books

JUMP START By Robb Armstrong

DO ME A FAVOR, JOE. HAVE A LITTLE CHAT WITH YOUR BROTHER, MARCUS GLOVER!
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A CHEAPSKATE, BUT IT'S GETTING TO BE RIDICULOUS!
HE'S REFUSING TO PAY FOR FAMILY FLIGHTS TO HAWAII DURING FOOTBALL SEASON!
HE'S A SMART OWNER.
I'LL HAVE THE CHAT, JOE. YOU SHOULD STAY OUT OF IT!
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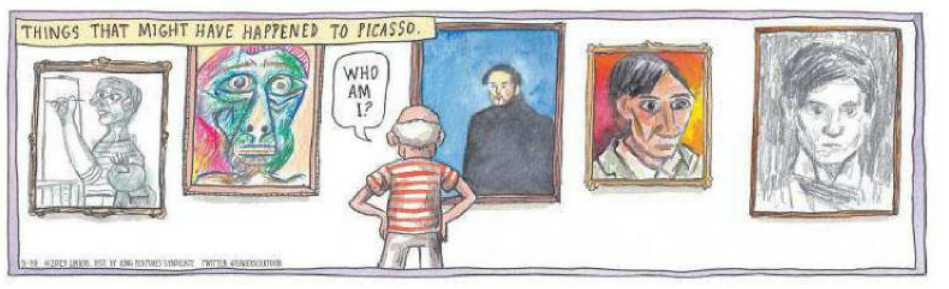
MACANUDO By Liniers



BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall

YO, DAGWOOD BUMSTEAD! IT'S ME, BARNABY WRINKLE, FROM HIGH SCHOOL!
OH YEAH, HI, BARN
DAG, DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN I WAS VOTED LEAST LIKELY TO SUCCEED?
I SURE DO
BOY, THEY REALLY NAILED IT!
www.Blondie.com

BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy

OOooo... THAT TOP IS SO CUTE! AND IT'S THE PERFECT STYLE FOR ME!
THE BLACK WILL GO WITH EVERYTHING... MAYBE I'LL GET TWO SO I'LL HAVE ONE WHEN THE OTHER WEARS OUT
...MAYBE I'LL GET IT IN RED TOO ...AND BLUE IS A GOOD COLOR ON ME... AND WHAT THE HECK- I'LL GET THE PRINT ONE TOO!
I'M BEGINNING TO DETECT THE REASON MY WARDROBE IS SO LIMITED...

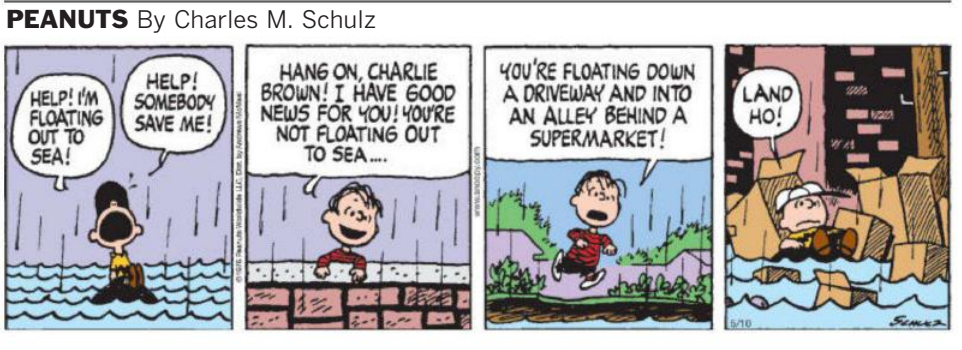
BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro

DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan

I CHALLENGE YOU TO A REMATCH, RALPH!
WE'LL WRESTLE IN YOUR FRONT YARD FOR ALL YOUR NEIGHBORS TO SEE!
WE'RE OVER THE HILL, CACTUS JACK! WE'D EMBARRASS OURSELVES!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M AFRAID OF EMBARRASSING MYSELF?
GOOD POINT.

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz


HELP! I'M FLOATING OUT TO SEA!
HELP! SOMEBODY SAVE ME!
HANG ON, CHARLIE BROWN! I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU! YOU'RE NOT FLOATING OUT TO SEA....
YOU'RE FLOATING DOWN A DRIVEWAY AND INTO AN ALLEY BEHIND A SUPERMARKET!
LAND HO!
5/10

Getty arts initiative at $17 million

[**PST Art,** from E1]
tal justice, dance, experimental music and myriad other areas of art and science — historically, in the present and in the future. It will include not only dozens of concurrent exhibitions, but also performances as well as staged conversations, publications and other programming. More than 800 artists are currently involved.

Securing PST Art's future was one of the first orders of business for Getty Trust President and Chief Executive Katherine E. Fleming, she said in an interview when she assumed her post in August.

"It was clear to me right when I came in at the Getty that PST was a huge, big deal for all sorts of people and organizations across Southern California," Fleming says. "And while the past two iterations of it had been a huge success, it wasn't completely clear that it was going to be baked into the life of the organization. And the excitement around it — both internally at the Getty and externally — was such that it made it a total no-brainer to decide to make the commitment to do this regularly every five years."

Rebranding the name, she adds, is "to make clear it has to do with art, to differentiate it from the highly Google-able PST" used to denote time zones.

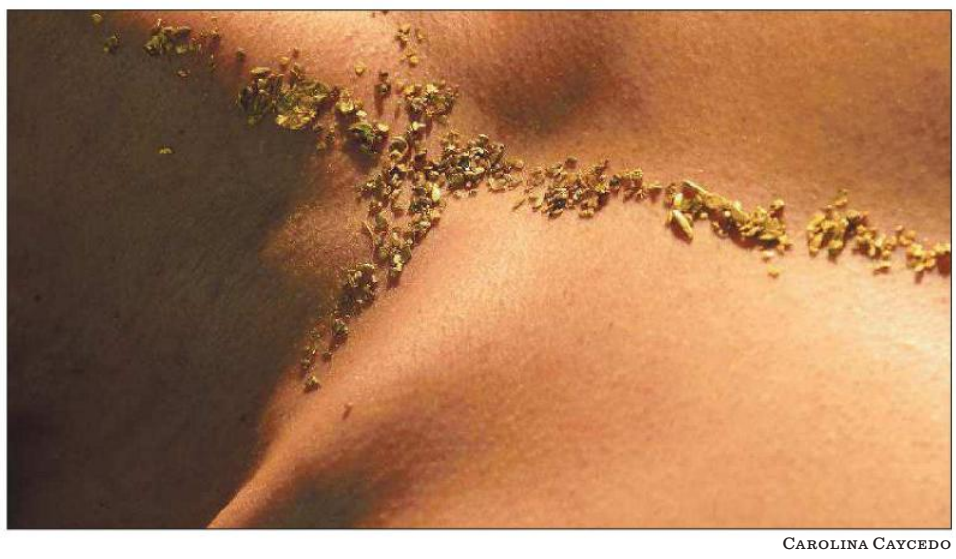
The inaugural Pacific Standard Time, in 2011-12, explored the SoCal art scene from 1945-1980; the second one, in 2017-18, covered Latin American and Latino art in dialogue with L.A. The Getty's overall grant investment for those initiatives was $11.4 million and $16.3 million, respectively.

In an interview last week, Fleming and the Getty Foundation Director Joan Weinstein were brimming with excitement about what will be the broadest Pacific Standard Time to date in terms of types of organizations participating and topics addressed. The geographical footprint includes participants as far north as Lancaster, as far south as San Diego and as far east as Palm Springs and could expand.

"For each one of these [PST Art] iterations, it's become a little bit more ambitious," Weinstein says. "One of the exciting things about this Pacific Standard Time is that a lot of these projects are, in ways, trying to redefine new relationships between art and science for the 21st century. And working together, they might hold the keys to some innovative solutions."

Jennifer Cuevas

MARU GARCIA, left, Tina Calderon and Beatriz Jaramillo's research into local contaminated land will be presented at Cal State L.A.'s Luckman Gallery in 2024.



Carolina Caycedo

A STILL from Carolina Caycedo's "Fuel to Fire," which will be on view as part of the Vincent Price Art Museum's PST presentation, "We Place Life at the Center."

The Getty first announced its grant recipients for "Art & Science Collide" in January 2021. Since then, participants have been using those funds to conduct scientific research or commission new art works or develop programming and exhibitions.

Forthcoming presentations will cover a sweeping timespan, with works including medieval Islamic illustrated books, Mesoamerican ceramics and textiles, ancient Aboriginal drawings as well as films, videos, computer art and artificial intelligence technology.

The Getty has named eight themes that the many exhibitions fall into.

For "Ecology and Environmental Justice," Self-Help Graphics will present a project at Luckman Gallery, Cal State L.A. It looks at how toxic manufacturing sites in East and Southeast L.A., such as the now-closed battery recycling plant Exide Technologies in Vernon, have affected communities near SHG.

L.A.-based artist-scientist Maru García collaborated with Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County scientists to research methods of healing the soil. They're in turn working with residents in affected areas to test a method for lead remediation using minerals. The exhibition will display documentation from the process, García's mosaics made of soil and sculptures made of remediating materials.

"This exhibition is personal for me," says García, who grew up in Puebla, Mexico.

"When I was back in Mexico, I played in my front yard, and it was magical for me to play with soil and interact with the little creatures. It's heartbreaking for me now, that these families, children, are facing a situation that is impeding living and playing safely in their backyard. It's also related to my interest in healing soil for good food and helping the plants and ecosystem."

L.A.'s Museum of Contemporary Art, exploring the same theme, will present a 30-year survey of work by Olafur Eliasson that tackles climate issues as well as a new, immersive large-scale installation by the artist.

Addressing "Global Cultures," San Diego's Mingei International Museum will take a deep dive into the history and potential future of the Indigo plant, "with roots going back 6,000 years in Peru and 4,500 years in Egypt," and examining its popularity as a dye and pigment in art.

Two themes look toward the future: "Claiming Tomorrow" and "Visions of the Future." The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, as part of the latter, will present an exhibition and companion programming "examining the global impact and lasting influence of Cyberpunk on cinema culture."

Meanwhile, within that same theme, the Autry Museum of the American West will present an installation in which Indigenous artists address aspects of science fiction. We're sold, if just by the title of the exhibition: "Indigenous Futures or How to Survive and Thrive After the Apocalypse."

The other themes are: "Technologies of Seeing and Control," "The Body: Site, Image, Possibility," "Picturing Science" and "The Skies and the Cosmos."

For the latter, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art will present sculptures, photographs, videos, manuscripts and astronomical instruments exploring "the breadth of cosmologies, including astrology and astronomy, across cultures and time."

L.A.-based artist and UC Santa Barbara professor Sarah Rosalena, who works at the intersection of craft and technology, will be showing work in multiple PST Art exhibitions, including one with the Hammer Museum and one with the Armory Center for the Arts.

"I'm delighted to see my research and work in computational craft, which thinks beyond boundaries as a dialogue between emerging technologies, science and historical craft traditions, being shown concurrently statewide. That's what 'PST Art: Art & Science' is all about," Rosalena says.

This PST Art will also establish Community Hubs, to develop participatory activities outside of the core exhibitions on view. Downtown's LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, LA Commons in South L.A. and the Lancaster Museum of Art and History will steer these efforts, each drawing in participants from their communities.

Fleming says that while she was traveling internationally, before starting her job at the Getty, she was struck by how many people — whether fellow travelers swapping backstories or colleagues at arts institutions — knew about PST Art, and they felt passionately about it. Given that interest, PST Art might one day hit the road. Or board a plane.

"Joan and I are starting to have some conversations about 'might there be scope, in a future PST Art, to think of ways to explicitly internationalize it,' " she says. "Either by making it possible for some of the exhibitions to go on the road, internationally, or reaching out to international partners."

For the upcoming PST Art, she adds, art and science are not meant to be parallel tracks on which to present exhibitions, but "intertwined with one another, so they become even more powerful and exciting."

"We've been struck by how excited the scientists are about the art dimension," she says, "and how excited the art people are about the scientific dimension — and how, in many ways, very similar thought processes are involved."

Muppets return at their best, no strings attached

[**'Muppets,'** from E1]
Electric Mayhem, created in the mid-'70s for "The Muppet Show." They have made appearances in many subsequent projects, but this is the first time they've taken center stage. Indeed, apart from a new character, a couple of bunnies, a talking shoe and a cameo appearance by Muppets who shall not be named, they are the only actors in this series not made of flesh and blood.

As a cast of characters, only Uncle Walt's original critters (the mice, the dogs, the ducks) are their peer in cultural penetration; it makes corporate sense that Disney would eventually ingest them (minus, I am happy to say, the Sesame Street Muppets — Bert and Ernie and Oscar and Cookie Monster and Oscar and Elmo, et al). Given Disney's long history of smoothing out and jazzing up the quirky, potent, sometimes dark works of Lewis Carroll, J.M. Barrie, P.L. Travers, Carlo Collodi and Hans Christian Andersen for mass consumption, I feared for their fate under their new masters. Unexpectedly — or not, given that Kermit and crew were already pretty smooth and jazzy — ABC's 2015 mockumentary series "The Muppets" took an opposite tack, with a psychologized, sexualized, more "adult" take on the characters. It did them few favors.

But "Muppets Now!," a digital-era updating of "The Muppet Show," recaptured the spirit of the original. So it is with "The Muppets Mayhem." Developed by 30-year Muppet veteran Bill Barretta, Adam F. Goldberg, creator of "The Goldbergs," and Jeff Yorkes, it's perhaps the best post-Henson Muppet show, even though — or exactly because — it features none of the usual headliners but strikes into fresh territory while maintaining the proper mix of satire, slapstick, silliness, subtlety and sentiment. The writing is good; the jokes land with Simone Biles consistency. The Muppets are, as always, astonishingly present and alive, above their invisible puppeteers.

The band, for the uninitiated — if such people exist — offers a range of musical types, as they would have been conceived in the mid-'70s. Keyboardist Dr. Teeth (Barretta), who nods to Dr. John — we learn here that he's also an actual "Doctor of Teeth" — is the nominal leader of the band, even as he agrees with the band that the band has no leader.

Guitarist Janice (David Rudman) is a flower child cum Valley Girl (her "transplendent" here is borrowed from Shelley Duvall in "Annie Hall"). Bassist Floyd Pepper (Matt Vogel) has the air of a holdout from the Summer of Love. The enigmatic horn section consists of saxophonist Zoot (Dave Goelz), cool to the point of inertia, and trumpeter Lips (Peter Linz), a mumbler. And, most memorably, there is Animal (Eric Jacobson), who is all drummers, times 10.

A kind of quantum nonsense rules. (When some impossible thing occurs, a character is simply liable to ask, "How did that happen?") We are told that the Electric Mayhem have been together for 40 years, yet they have not aged a day; a remark about Floyd turning 50 means that he was 8 when "The Muppet Show" premiered.

The band somehow flies at once below and on the radar; they play huge concerts — which is where the money is, people — but even without the usual bank account-draining expenses of a rock band, they're broke. (Still, it's easy enough to imagine them not remembering to get paid.) They rely on kismet and serendipity to guide them and share a lack of commercial ambition that keeps all in harmony.

But this is a series with an arc, and things will happen. Nora (Lilly Singh, not a Muppet) is a music fan and seemingly the sole employee of Hollywood's Wax Town Records; her boss, a new Muppet named Penny Waxman (Leslie Carrara-Rudolph), is ready to close up shop when Nora discovers that the Electric Mayhem, who have never recorded an album, owe the company one. (Dr. Teeth and Penny, as it turns out, also have a history.) Nora sees her chance.

The first thing we learn about her is that she thinks the lyrics to Kiss' "Rock and Roll All Nite" run "and part of every day," rather than "party every day," as they do. It marks her as a logical, sensible sort and puts her at temperamental odds with the Electric Mayhem. (They love her anyway, of course — Animal especially.)

Also in the mix are Nora's much more successful sister, Hannah (Saara Chaudry, an online influencer); JJ (Anders Holm), an old boyfriend determined to win Nora back by becoming a power player; and Gary "Moog" Moogowski (Tahj Mowry), a shy Mayhemhead, with skills, who becomes part of the (dis)organization. Their human business is ... not unpredictable. But it fits the gestalt.

Mitch Haaseth Disney+

NORA (Lilly Singh), Janice (voiced by David Rudman) and Nora's influencer sister, Hannah (Saara Chaudry), in "The Muppets Mayhem" on Disney+.

'The Muppets Mayhem'

Where: Disney+
When: Anytime
Rated: TV-PG (may be unsuitable for young children)

As on "The Muppet Show" and many Muppet projects onward, there are human guest stars, here including Lil Nas X, Kesha, Susanna Hoffs, deadmau5, Morgan Freeman (in a Zoot suit — that is, dressed as Zoot), Ziggy Marley, Charlamagne tha God, Paula Abdul, Chris Stapleton, Danny Trejo, Zedd, Kristen Schaal, Ben Schwartz, a reunited Cheech and Chong and on and on. (It's a long list.) It speaks to the art and craft of the Muppeteers that there is no existential distance between the people and the puppets; they are equally real, and equally absurd.

An episode-long parody of the Beatles documentary "Get Back," in which "a random deadline has been forced upon [the group] to create tension and stakes," brings in directors Kevin Smith ("You see this camera? Do *not* look into this camera") and Peter Jackson ("I don't make movies; I make trilogies"). There are satires on various forms of social media, YouTube channels and the metaverse. ("He literally scratches himself on camera and goes viral," Hannah will complain of Animal's sudden TikTok success. "It's almost like social media is shallow and pointless.")

An episode that finds the band and company out in the desert seeking inspiration turns psychedelic when they discover a bag of expired marshmallows — *don't eat old marshmallows, kids!* — an occasion for some excellent stop-motion animation and a vision of "Weird Al" Yankovic appearing in the sky to Floyd.

Weird Al: "I'm here to tell you to stop being so precious and start writing music again."

Floyd: "Says the guy who only writes parody songs — got you!"

Every film or program featuring the "Muppet Show" Muppets is in some sense a show business story, because even in something like "The Muppet Christmas Carol," they're performers — at once as who they are and who they're playing. Show business in their world has always been both rewarding and cruel: "All this time we thought show biz was a trusted haven of truth and honesty," someone says here — full of mishap but ever leading to triumph, and no doubt a song.

And where many such backstage fairy tales would introduce a villain, a tempter, a wolf in executive clothing to lead them astray, the only obstacle in the Mayhem's way is the Mayhem — if "obstacle" even applies, since they're in no hurry to get anywhere, and you can't make them. But naturally, the show will go on.